THEINDEPENDENT

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TODAY'S NEWS

New flu advice: no handshakes

A new guide by the Consumer Health Information Centre, published yesterday, demolishes the idea that the commonest way of catching flu or colds is through coughs and sneezes. In fact, the most likely route is shaking hands with an infected person and then rubbing your eyes. The guide also says that sitting in a draught, or getting caught in the rain do not lead to catching colds. Page 5

Honeytrap sting

An elaborate 'honeytrap' sting caught the Tory MP Piers Merchant, who is resigning from Parliament. The Sunday Mirror video-recorded him having sex with a former nightclub dancer, who had previously complained of being 'used' by him. He was ensnared in the York flat of his one-time friend. Anthony Gilberthorpe, Page 7

Kohl's successor

Wolfgang Schauble, the German politician who has been confined to a wheelchair after a failed assassination attempt, has been named by Chancellor Helmut Kohl as his preferred successor. However, Kohl is expected to stay until 1999. Page 16

Tribal warfare



A 'Wild West' atmosphere is engulfing the Highlands of Papua New Guinea as fortune-hunters mingle with tribes and unemployed drifters in a society on the edge of civilisation. Richard Lloyd Parry sends a report from the badiands. Page 13

Black vanishes

A well-known life insurance company has ditched a brochure with a black man on the cover and reprinted it with a white woman there instead. The switch has earned Axa Equity and Law a complaint to the Commission for Racial Equality. Page 3

SEEN & HEARD

Many airlines aiready offer a limousine fitted with minibar and telephone to transport the weary traveller, but one man in New York has decided to go further. His cars come fully equipped with a personal stripper who will fix a cocktail and remove her clothes in time to the music as the driver speeds down the highway. At £275 a throw Striptease-To-Go is not cheap, but Chris Lundquist, who dreamt up the idea, said it is no less popular for that. He bristles at the idea that he might be selling sex. It is the pure romance of sensual impressions in a nice limousine'. It is understood there are no plans to introduce a similar service on the London Underground.



Page 32 and

the Eye, page 9

Earthquake victim: Can they solve the art jigsaw?



Architectural damage: The broken face of St Rufino, by Giotto, which fell from the ceiling of the Basilica of St Francis in Assissi during the recent earthquakes in Umbria, central Italy. The fresco is being recovered by local experts. On page 17 we have exclusive photographs of the damage to the basilica. Tomorrow's photographs will focus on the quakes' human toll Photograph: Brian Harris

Historic challenge to the nation's Green Belt

development on farmland in the Home Counties has been given the go-ahead the biggest challenge to the Green Belt for a generation. Nicholas Schoon says that the Government will come under intense pressure to reverse a decision whichcould open the floodgates for new waves of suburban sprawl.

Hertfordshire County Council is planning up to 10,000 oew homes oo Green Belt land near Stevenage - in effect, a new small town. It brings the debate about where to build the huge quantity of new homes needed in Britain over the next two decades to boiling point.

Not only is it ooe of the biggest single developments on rural land being contemplated in Britain since the last geocratico of New Towns. More importantly, at 800 hectares, it would be the biggest single loss of Green Belt land for decades.

The Government is projecting a demand for 4.4 million extra homes by 2016 - a 23 per cent increase. The oew Government's policy is that the forecasts are realistic and the demand should be met. So if they are to be built then many of them will have to go oo greenfield sites. The awkward question is - how many?

Green groups and local resideots are pressing John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for the Environment, to intervene and overrule Hertfordshire's decision. His Tory predecessor John Gummer, joined them.

Mr Gummer, oow a hack bench Tory MP, said: "If you give developers the cheaper, easier option of building oo greenfield they will always go for it - you have it to make it much harder for them, and much easier for them to choose derelict and urban sites." Environmentalists agreed.

"Laboor must call in this developmeot," said Simoo Festing of the Friends of the Earth. Neil Sinden, of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "The Government's household growth projections are a real threat to the continued role of green belts, which have had buge

public support for decades." For many years, Conservative

and Labour governments have regarded the Greeo Belts as sacrosanct. The designation, which keeps rural land around big cities free of development, dates back to 1938. It has been the main weapon of both national and local planners io stopping towns from growing outwards ever further and joining together.

But the policy is under unprecedented strain. Many towns surrounded by belts have now grown right up to the inside edge of them. There is little countryside left inside, and what there is likely to be fiercely protected by resideots.

Each year, an area of countryside the size of Bristol is urbanised. Census statistics show that each day 300 people leave Britain's higgest cities to live in About half of all new housing

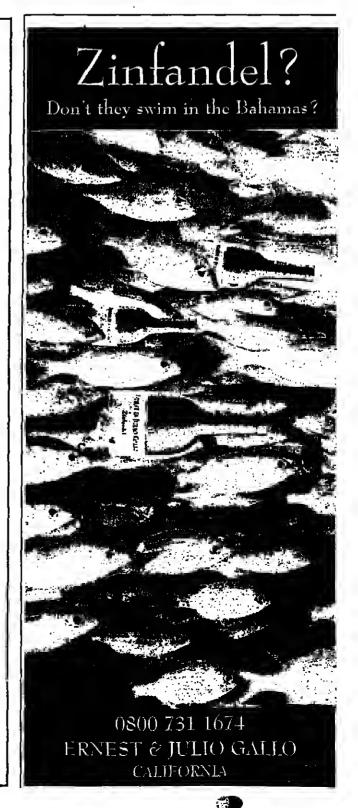
Green belt ...

development oow happens in previously developed areas, chiefly on redundant and derelict sites inside towns. The last Goverameot wanted to push this proportion up to 60 per cent; the oew ooe has not yet decided

whether to accept this target. In Hertfordshire, more than half the county's remaining countryside has been designated as Green Belt, giving it extra protection from development. The county council has been drawing up its Structure Plan, a strategic blueprint covering the period 1991 to 2011. A government-appointed inspector has already approved the bulk of it after a public inquiry, including the loss of Green Belt. The plan cleared one of its final hurdles on Tuesday wheo the council's Environment Committee voted to submit it for a final round of consultation.

It was passed by just one vote, with councillors of the ruling Labour-Liberal Democrat coalitioo defeating the Conservatives. It will be for the smaller district councils in Hertfordshire to implement the structure plan as they grant planning permission to developers.

Thousands of people have objected and the development will make Steveoage almost merge with oearby Hitchin something the Green Belt was meant to stop. But the county argues that it has little choice. Much more urban huilding would mean "town cramming" and the loss of parks and playing



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The

Cit

ZITS

ATON! WHATS IN IT?

NOTEBOOKS_PENS_PAPERS_GON CLOTHES. DEDDORANT. FLORPY DISKS COS... CO PLANER ... HY WALLET LOOSE CHANGE ... HY LUNCIL A CALCULATOR. SINGLASSES BUITAR STRINGS_BREATH MINTE A REPALPIGNA JAR













by Chris Priestley

COLUMN ONE

Mayor takes crunch from the Big Apple

The taming of the Big Apple continues apace. Times Square has lost most of its sex joints and addicts. The taxi drivers are under orders to be nice and speak English too, Now, it seems, the City That Never Sleeps is to he told it must sleep. Or at least let others sleep.

No, the subway trains are not being stopped at midnight; the elevated tracks in Queens will still rattle and roar at three in the morning just as they do at three in the afternoon. Nor are we talking of a curfew on the traffic that seems to be at rusb bour pitch at all bours of the

But the babble that is part of what defines New York the city - the horns, the buzz of the clubs, even the hum of a million air conditioning units, all that must cease. Or if not cease, it must be lowered to volumes that allow those folks who prefer to tuck in at midnight actually to rest.

That is the message of a new ordinance passed by the City Council this week that will triple fines on people found responsible for excessive decibel emission. Make a racket when the moon is up and your wallet will burn.

This is one bill that Rudolph Giuliani, the Mayor (did I hear dictator?), will be rushing to sign.

He is up for re-election next month, and making New York "livable" is his ticket to another four years m Gracie Mansion. A ticket, by the way, that the grateful voters are almost certain to grant bim.

To whom will the ordinance give pause? To dog owners, for sure. If your mut barks at night, the fine may reach \$525 (£332). A loud TV could cost you \$1,050 (£664). You thought the cable bill was bad? Let you car alarm sound for more than three minutes

and your pain may top \$2,100. Similarly scorching fines are promised to bars with the volume turned too high on their music and drivers who like to lean on their borns. (Here, that means everyone).

Many city dwellers will applaud the measure, of course, especially those in so-called residential areas that bave still not been able to withstand the spread of the clubs and bars, "New Yorkers are never going to be listening to crickets at night," said Councilman Gifford Miller. "We're just trying to make it a little saner".

But bar owners are protesting. "This is going to kill business," remarked one yesterday. The New York Nightlife Association barked: "We're not saying nightclubs should be exempt from noise codes. But there has to be a certain amount of tolerance. The city that never sleeps gets its name from licensed nightclubs". - David Usborne

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PEOPLE



Family values: Glen Hoddle, with his wife Anne, and their Children Zoe, Zara and Jamie as they appeared in the breakfast cereal TV commercial

Hoddle dropped from 'perfect family' ad

vision advertisement starring Glenn Hoddle and his family because it is "inappropriate" to use it following the break up of the England coach's marriage.

Cereal Partners, makers of the Shredded Wheat. campaign because they feared it would cause the family distress.

The company's statement said: "We viewed them as the rest of the country did, as a terrific family. We were therefore surprised and saddened to bear the announcement of the Hoddles' separation. Of course, under the circumstances, we do not feel it is appropriate to run the advertisement in future because we would not want to cause discomfort to viewers, or indeed Glenn and his family."

Cereal Partners' advertising agency, McCann-Erickson, has promoted the cereal as a breakfast with strong family associations ever since it started using the former Ireland football manager Jack Charlton and his grandchildren at the beginning of statement which said it was a private matter the Nineties. It started using Glenn Hoddle, his wife unrelated to his job as England coach. and three children in May following his appointment

The makers of Shredded Wheat have dropped a tele- as national coach. Advertising industry experts estimate that Hoddle would have been paid up to £100,000 for a year-long endorsement deal with the cereal company.

John Gorman, England's assistant coach and a said yesterday they were dropping the advertising friend of Hoddle's for 15 years, said yesterday that the break up of the marriage was unconnected with his role as England coach: "It was not the pressure. it was nothing to do with football. No one else was

> Mr Hoddle, whose popularity with the fans bas saved him from the usual harsh treatment meted out by the tabloid press to England managers, bad been married for 18 years. He met his wife at school in Harlow, Essex, when he was 15.

The former Tottenham midfielder is a born-again Christian who, with the exception of the Shredded Wheat ad, has kept his private and family life out of the public eye. The end of his marriage was announced by the Fontball Association in a

Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

Seventy-two questions to make Clinton squirm

When President Clinton gets home soon from his current trip around South America, there will be a fun little puzzle waiting for bim. Call it a sex quiz. It's author is Paula Jones - or rather ber

Ms Jones, the former Arkansas state employee who is pursuing a peculiarly lurid sexual harassment against the President, is asking 72 questions in all. All they need are yes or no answers, but it is not a test that Mr Clinton is likely to enjoy. Nor will be asking for help from the First Lady.

The questions include this one, that cuts to the beart of the suit: "Please admit or deny the following: On May 8, 1991, at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock, Ark. Defendant Clinton exposed his penis to Paula Jones.

And there is this: "Please admit or deny the following: After May 8 1991, but while he was still



Governor of the State of Arkansas, in the Rotunda of the Arkansas State Capitol. Defendant Clinton touched Paula Jones and said, 'Don't we make a beautiful couple - beauty and the beast'."

Other questions, all submitted as part of the pre-trial discovery process in the suit, seek to establish a wider pattern of Mr Clinton. in his time as state Governor, trad-

ing sexual favours for jobs on the state payroll. Mr Clinton, who says that he cannot even remember meeting Ms Jones let alone rewealing any part of his anatomy to her, is not likely to engage in this particular game. His lawyers bave the option of asking the judge in the case to block the questions.

With little prospect of the two sides agreeing to an out-of-court settlement, the case itself is due to go to trial in Little Rock next May. Mr Clinton's lead lawyer. Bob Bennett, has already voiced his disdain. "I am not surprised that they would use their pleadings to further try to embarrass the President by using rumours and hearsay and fictions," be said.

For Ms Jones, however, her lawyers are unrepentant, even though they have served notice that their own client's wider sex life should not be explored in the

UPDATE

Benefit system breaking up families

Children of separated parents are missing out on regular contact with their fathers because of bousing problems, it was revealed yesterday. The homeless charity, Shelter, says hundreds of fathers end up homeless a in cramped conditions after a relationship breakdown.

Many are unable to have their children to stay because there is not enough room or the conditions are so poor, both of which can lead to a breakdown in the relationship between the single father and their chile. dren, it claims. The charity says the problems arise because local councils often fail to recognise a single father's responsibility for accommodating his children. Chris Holmes, director of Shelter, said: "It is appalling that many children's valuable time with their fathers is being disrupted by hous-

DIET

Tomatoes help keep heart healthy

Eating cooked tomatoes could halve your risk of beart attacks, a new, study revealed yesterday. The study, which is published in the American Journal of Epidemiology followed 3,000 men from nine European countries and looked at those who had beart attacks and those who had not.

The team from the University of North Carolina took fat samples from all the men which revealed what they bad been eating. They found that in the bealthy men there was a much higher level of an anti-oxidant called lycopene. The most common source of lycopene is cooked tomatoes suchas tomato paste, tomato soup or pizzas, although the high cheese content of pizzas makes experts reluctant to suggest eating these....



HEALTH

Salmonella risk from pet reptiles

Pet snakes and lizards pose a significant salmonella risk to bahies, doc. tors warned yesterday. A study in the journal Archives of Disease in Child hood reported on two children, one 11 days old and the other eight weeks, who both became ill from salmonella infection.

In the youngest child, the bug was acquired from the family's pet green iguana, which appeared perfectly healthy. The child's symptoms lasted for six months. The father of the second child bred snakes, 15 of which shared the family borne. The same strain of salmonella was isolated from four of the snake species.

TOURIST RATES

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2.13	Italy (Iira)	2,704
19.34		194.47
56.81		0.61
2.18	Netherlands (guilders)	3.09
0.81		11.16
10.54		278.35
9.22		231.38
2.76		11.98
436.64		2.31
12.15		275,769
1.07		1.58
	***	nce: Thomas Cook
	Restes for indica	tion purposes only
	19.34 56.81 2.18 0.81 10.54 9.22 2.76 436.64 12.15	19.34 Japan (yen) 56.81 Malta (lira) 2.18 Netherlands (guilders) 0.81 Norway (kroner) 10.54 Portugal (escudos) 9.22 Spain (pesetas) 2.76 Sweden (kroner) 436.64 Switzerland (francs) 12.15 Turkey (lira) 1.07 USA (\$)

7.30 FOR 8 by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

I PON'T CARE. WHAT YOUR CLIENTS AKE NUTTERS THEY ARE NOT, MAC THEY ARE PEOPLE WITH CHALLENGING PERSONALITTE

BUT ANYONE WHO PAINTS HIS PECKER GREEN AND LUKKS AROUND AMENG THE FRUIT AND





"Compelling...Stephen Fry As Flamboyant Oscar Wilde Is Impressive And Moving" STEPHEN JUDE VANESSA JENNIFER

"A REVELATION

...Stephen Fry gives a dominating screen performance in this impressive and touching work of intelligence, compassion and tragic satire." Alexander Walker - EVENING STANDARD

"A WINNER FROM THE START

... brilliant acting by the entire cast, especially Stephen Fry who was born to be Wilde and Jennifer Ehle who breaks hearts as Oscar's wife, Constance." Miranda Lery - WOMAN'S JOURNAL

FRY LAW REDGRAVE EHLE "FABULOUS

...a passionate and exciting film that cannot possibly fail to move you ... Thrilling, enthralling and intelligent."

ODEON ODEON ODEON ODEON

للامل الاصل

Insurance firm dropped black man's image from publicity

A top UK life insurer was yesterday accused of racial bias after replacing a black man's picture on a brochure cover with the image of a white woman. As Nic Cicutti and Tony Bonsignore report, the affair has rekindled the row over Ford's alleged "ethnic cleansing" of black faces from a car promotion guide.

healthy

repriles

The picture staring out of the original application form for an Axa Multipension Plan shows a screne, sober-looking man wearing a shirt and tie, the epitome of respectability. Just the right person for a personal pension - except his image was pulled from the brochure weeks after first being distributed up and down the country to fi-

nancial advisers. He is black. In his place, Axa Equity & Law chose to publish a picture of a sober-looking, serene young woman, wearing an open-necked shirt under a busi-

ness jacket. She is white. Axa claimed vesterday that it wanted only to make the person on the front of the picture more up-market by having her wear

But the sudden change of imagery made Tracey Dell, an independent financial adviser in Northampton, see red. She is complaining to the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE), alleging that the main reason why Axa chose to switch faces on its publication was because brokers selling the product had complained.

"My information is that when the brochure went out to independent financial advisers, a handful complained that it would be far more difficult to sell the product if it had the picture of a black man on the front," Ms Dell said yesterday. "I think it was quite phenomenal to react to pressure in this way. I mean, if the majority of hrokers in this country were asked whose picture they want on the front page of any brochure, the chances are that they would ask for Melinda

Messenger. But no company

would give in on that one.

The affair contains echoes of last year's Ford Motor Com-. pany furore, where five members of ethnic minorities were invited to appear in the picture to show the racial mix of Ford's workforce at Dagenham. But in an "ethnic-cleansed" version of the photograph, the black and brown faces were replaced by white ones. The company apologised and paid compensation to the five workers. However, an Axa spokes-man yesterday said the decision to drop a black face from the company's sales aid was not racially motivated and was part of its sim to change all its product literature as part of a merger with another

He said: "The brief was changed in the two brochures to reflect a more respectable image in the second one. The woman is clearly wearing a respectable business suit while the man was in a shirt and tie." The spokesman added that the company had also made changes to a separate brochure promoting another of its products, altering the picture from a white woman wearing a sweater to a man wearing a tie.

insurer, Sun Life.



Deep space: Spectators watch yesterday as the nuclear-powered Cassini space probe lifts off just before dawn at Cape Canaveral, Florida, bound Photograph: Joe Skipper/Reuters for Saturn. The j2.2 billion-mile journey will take seven years

Saudi victim's brother waives right to insist on death penalty

Neither of the British nurses accused of Mardering a colleague in Saudi Arabia will face public beheading after the victim's brother waived his right to demand the death penalty. Steve Boggon says it took almost a year and £770,000 – to

reach this point.

Frank Gilford, the only man who could guarantee the lives of Deborah Parry and Lucille McLauchlan, yesterday ended

10 months of speculation. For Ms McLauchian, 31, who has already been seotenced to eight years in prison and 500 lashes for involvement in the murder of Yvonne Gilford, his announcement was academic. But for Deborah Parry, who still awaits the verdict of a Sandi court, it came as It was "compensation." Dis-

a huge relief. Both families expressed "delight" last night.

In return for giving up his right, Mr Gilford, who lives in Jamestown, South Australia, was paid 1.7m Australian dollars (£770,000), most of which will be spent on a new children's ward in his sister's name in Adelaide. The rest, he said, would go in legal fees, leaving \$50,000 for his own pain and suffering. It was not "blood money".

gusted at his treatment at the hands of the British press, most of which regarded his negotiations with distaste, he banned representatives of UK-based media organisations from a press conference attended by his Australian lawyers.

"I have agreed to warve the death penalty in consideration of sources, other than the nurses and their families, providing 1.7 million Australian dollars (£770,000)," he said. "I would

like to make it clear I have not accepted any 'hlood money' as that is a specified sum under Saudi Arabian law ... [I] have accepted compensation which is an alternative to 'hlood money' under Saudi Arabian law.

"From information that I have received I believe that the nurses are guilty of the murder of my sister but in the end I leave their guilt to the Saudi court to determine." Ms Gilford, 55, was found battered,

stabbed and suffocated in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Centre in Dhahran last December. The Saudi authorities claim the women killed her during a row when she tried to Ms Parry, 38, something both

ourses deny. The Saudi court is now likely to hand down its verdict on Ms Parry. If its three judges decide she is guilty of "intentional murder", she would have been

eligible for the death penalty without Mr Gilford's waiver. Robin Cook, the Foreign

Secretary, said work was going oo behind the scenes to ensure that neither woman would be end a lesbian relationship with . flogged. He told ITN: "I did say our objective was to see that oeither nurse was heheaded or and let us hope we can go the extra distance.

A statement issued oo behalf of the women's families justice."

thanked all the lawyers involved and concluded: "We are pleased to note that the majority of the payment to Mr Gilford is to be used for charitable purposes as the girls have always found it difficult to appreciate the need under sharia law to compensate Mr Gilford flogged. We are half-way there and his family for a crime which they did not commit in order to avoid the possibility of the most terrible miscarriage of

Beards and beer bellies left in the past as real ale gurus come of age

The Campaign for Real Ale, arguably one of the most successful consumer campaigns, celebrates its 25th anniversary today. Stephen Goodwin toasts the occasion at the All Nations in Shropshire.

Walter "Watty" Colley, dropping in to get two pints of homebrewed pale ale poured into a large old whisky bottle, was unimpressed by the accolades heaped oo the puh and the golden liquid he was carrying

Watty has been drinking All Nations pale ale for 54 years and he does not need a fancy guide book to tell him it is a cracking pint. "I'm not happy with the price, mind thee," added the 79-year-old former kiln-worker. A pint at the All Nations costs 95p.

None of the regulars is about to go overboard about their pub's inclusion in Camra's Silver Selection - the select few who have featured in all 25 Good Beer Grades.

Once characterised as a sort of mutual support group for men with beards and beer bellies, Camra has proved itself a strikingly successful consumer



Well served: The All Nations pub in Madeley, Shropshire, Photograph: David Rose has made all 25 Good Beer Guides

campaigning organisation. Its object was to drive out "fizzy beer" - where carbon dioxide was used to force heer to the bar - and also "characterless keg" so that drinkers could once again enjoy traditionally brewed cask beer. Real ale was then the exception in pubs but by 1980 the epitomy of fizzy heer, Watneys Red, had heen axed and hand pumps sprouted on bars across the country.

There are now around 2,500 real ales and new breweries are opening at a rate of almost one a week. But not everything is rosy in the beer garden; characterless keg, employing nitrogen in its dispensing and

"It's a pub, it's not a restau-The All Nations was built in

rant that sells beer or anything like that." Mr Hardman said.

er hailing the pub's inclusion in

the guide hut he has not both-

ered to put any of them in the

window of the unprepossessing

1789 on a bank high above the River Severn and it has stayed within two families all that time - Baggulays and Lewises. Mr Hardman married Jean Lewis, whose father, Bill, took over the pub in 1934. However, its survival is credited to her mother, Eliza.

Twenty-five years ago there were just four home-brewed pubs left in the country, two of which were in Shropshire, the All Nations and the Three Tuns at Bishops Castle.

Eliza Lewis ladled the beer by hand - some 200 gallons per hrew - from the coal-fired copper into the mash tun, back into the boiler and then into the

fermenting vessel.
Pressed hard yesterday, Graham Wilson, a retired longdistance lorry driver, broke out and oiled the wheels of the first of the undemonstrative cover industrial revolution. The Blists and sang the praises of the pub, its pale ale and even its outside fired the kilns is now part of the toilets. "It's what I was brought up with. You can get wet with Keith Hardman, the landa good pint inside, and you can lord, was as unfazed as his get wet when you have to go regulars by the fame. Each

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INSIDE TODAY

IN THE INDEPENDENT TOMORROW

millions of pounds in its ad-

vertising, is still a Camra target.

And then there is price. Today

the average pint costs £1.64 and

can rise to £2.15. In 1974 beer

cost an average 15p a pint. Madeley, in rural Shrop-

shire, is a down-to-earth place.

The All Nations and pubs close

by once slaked the thirsts of

those who stoked the furnaces

Hill works where Watty once

Ironbridge Gorge Museum.

year Camra sends him a stick-



PROMOTION Take a short break in Paris with Eurostar from £89, page 4

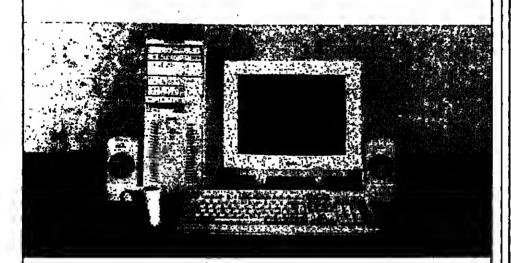
IS FRY AN OSCAR-WINNER? Stephen Fry's Wilde film hits the screen at last. Adam Mars-Jones passes judgment

A FILM LESS ORDINARY?

We interview the wonderful people who gave us Trainspotting, back with Cameron Diaz

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Pro Recommended Award, it beat the competition hands down in every category, earning the verdict of "an extremely good value. feature-packed PC that offers cutting edge technology for under £2.000." Award-winning systems like this are why we've become the world's largest direct PC manufacturer". And why you should call us.

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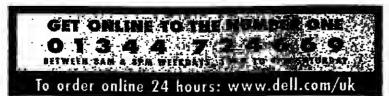
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- •MS MONEY (US) HELPS YOU BALANCE ACCOUNTS,
- PLAN HOUSEHOLD BUDGETS AND MUCH MORE





Westminster housing chief's homes sell-off fears

Former Westminster City that the district auditor would Council housing chief, Graham England, described in the High Court yesterday his anxiety over the Tory majority group's controversial plan to sell off up to 500 council homes

He conceded the late 1980s sell-off scheme - which has left him, Dame Shirley Porter and other council colleagues facing a £31m surcharge – was pitched "at a very high level" and he certainly would not have recommended it.

The ex-housing director told three judges he was concerned

take the view that the council was fettering its ability to fulfil its statutory duties to house the homeless.

But he took advice from a leading lawyer, who said he was heing "over-restrictive" and the city-wide policy was lawful.

Asked by Alun Jones QC. appearing for the auditor, if he thought that to designate 500 sales a year was "on the edge of perversity", he replied: "It was on the right side of the

Mr England, ex-council leader Dame Shirley and three

other former Westminster colleagues are all asking the High Court to overturn the £31.6m surcharge imposed by district auditor John Magill after he said they were guilty of "disgraceful and improper gerrymandering" between 1987 and

In May last year he made them and one other council official "jointly and severally" liable to repay the sum he estimated to have been wrongly spent on allegedly trying to fix election results in eight marginal wards, by selling council homes cheaply under the

right-to-buy scheme to people who were more likely to vote Conservative. Paul Hayler, the former di-

visiooal housing director, who also faces the surcharge, is ill and is not appealing.

Cross-examined by Mr Jones, Mr England recalled the uproar at City Hall as the Conservative majority group battled to introduce a designated sales policy. He told Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Latham and Mr Justice Keene, that at one housing committee meeting in April 1987, the police had to he

called and he had ended up "pinned against a glass window: oo the 19th floor of City Hall

Mr England denied helping to throw a "smokescreeo" round the policy in order to get it approved. He described his growing anxiety wheo it was originally proposed to target sales in eight key marginal. wards and how he had warned against it. But the decision to target 500 homes a year across the city had been made on proper grounds and he was not guilty of wilful misconduct.

The hearing resumes

Baby's injuries were inflicted, nanny trial told

The baby who died while being cared for by nanny Louise Woodward had been shaken with "quite enormous force", an expert on child abuse told her murder trial yesterday.

Dr Eli Newberger said ninemonth-old Matthew Eappen had been subjected to a shaking so violent that it would have been carried out with as much energy as an adult could

It went on for up to and beyond a minute, probably in intervals, Dr Newberger told the Middlesex Superior Court in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where Miss Woodward, 19, of Elton, near Chester, is on trial for first degree morder.

Dr Newberger, a key prosecution witness, who has written seven books on child abuse and heads the Child Protection Scheme and Boston's Children's Hospital, said that from the time he first saw the baby - the day after his admissioo to the hospital in February he had been in "next to no doubt" that he was a child abuse victim, who had suffered "shaken baby syndrome".

"From the clinical record and my examination it was



neurological system had suf-

fered devastating injuries." He said they could not have heen caused by a gentle shaking, the baby being tossed on a bed or being dropped on a towel covering a bathroom floor, as Miss Woodward is alleged to have told police.

Asked by prosecuting attorney Gerry Leone whether the injuries were accidental or

inflicted, Dr Newberger replied: "They were inflicted."

Dr Newberger said: "This shaking was of such a violent degree that it would have required as much energy as an adult could muster, sustained over a period of time approaching or exceeding a minute, probably delivered in intervals. This child's clinical condition indicated his hrain

and eyes had been subjected

to quite enormous direct force.

He said the injuries were at the "far end of the spectrum of severity" of about 20 cases of Shaken Baby Syndrome he saw each year. He was oot surprised there were no external injuries found on the haby on his admission to hospital. "This is typical in these cases."

My opinion is that all the injuries are attributable to

Louise Woodward listens to a witness giving testimony during her murder trial yesterday Photograph: Reuters

child abuse." he told the court. The doctor gave a graphic demonstration of the degree of force he said would have been necessary to cause the massive injuries. He shook his hands violently in front of him, raised them above his head and slammed them down towards the floor as he said how the baby would have been grasped firmly and shaken for a number of seconds with the greatest possible force before being slammed to the floor, causing a skull fracture to the back of

The prosecution alleges that Miss Woodward killed the haby in a rage of frustration. and bitterness because be was crying all day and she was unhappy with her job.

The defence claims the injury could have been caused accidentally, some days before, and that the hrain injuries developed as it started to bleed. again. The case continues.

Unpaid crew force ship to Plymouth

A giant car-carrier was stranded last night outside Plymouth harbour after the crew mutinied and took over the vessel protesting about unpaid wages.

The O'Shea Express was on route from Bremerhaven in Germany to Lehanon when the 11 Lehanese crew members revolted over their unpaid wages, reported to be worth nearly \$26,000.

The angry crew forced the Polish master to change course to Plymouth late on Tuesday. Under maritime law, the British port can act as neutral waters in which to settle the dispute.

Mark Clark, a spokesman for the Brixham Coastguard in Plymouth, said: "According to information received by us, the carrier was taken over by the crew in protest about unpaid wages. The Maritime Safety Agency will be making n visit to check safety conditions."

WD Tamlyn, the Plymouthbased agents for the company, said yesterday: " The owners' representatives are on board to try and resolve the situation."

When asked why the crew's wages had not been paid, the spokesman said: "These things can happen. Paying conditions go wrong, or the owners keep the funds in the bank to get the interest." — Louise Hancock

Jail conditions dreadful, says chief inspector

The prisons inspector warns that conditions in some jails are as bad as a century ago, and as numbers of inmates rise, standards are falling, reports jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent.

The Chief Inspector of Prisons has launched an outspoken attack on conditions in jails which he says are collapsing because of pressure from overcrowding and lack of funding.

Sir David Ramsbotham has recommended Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, to carry out an "urgent examination" of the entire prison system. He said some of the conditions were what he would expect in jails in the last century and that standards were dropping below the minimum promised by the Prison Service.

He said: "I must voice my concern that, to continue to cut resources while the prison population climbs inexorably higher, is in danger of becoming a process of reductio ad absurdum [reducing it to a farce ."

The sweeping criticisms of the system are some of the most outspoken comments yet made by Sir David, who is the country's most senior inspector of prisons.

The comments follow a report published yesterday following an unannounced visit in March to Lincoln adult prison for convicted adults and people on

He said that staff on the wing for 200 unconvicted prisons awaiting trial were "clearly demoralised and no longer believed that they were in control of the

The centre were inmates spent their first night was in a "dreadful state", with ripped and stained mattresses, and encrusted food on the walls and ceilings. Sir David commented: "You begin to wooder in which country, and in what century, what is described is being allowed to take place. When you realise that it is England in 1997 you feel angry that this is heing tolerated."

He said prison managers "must feel extremely concerned about the future, in many other prisons, as numbers continue

The prison population in England and Wales has continued to go up again and currently stands at a record 63,000. The Government made an emergency payment of £44m earlier this year to help cope with overcrowding.

A Prison Service spokesman said: There has been an awful lot of improvements in the past five years, such as the ending of slopping out and expansion of workshops. Staff have been incredible in the way they have dealt with the prohlems.

In response to the criticism of Lincoln, Richard Tilt, director general of the Prison Service, said: "We accept that this is a critical report identifying some real problems in an elderly local prison facing severe population pressures within a light budget. However, many of the problems identified in the report have been

Tories drop Saatchi

The Conservative Party aired a party political broadcast last night without the involvement of the Saatchi hrothers for the first time in 15 years. The advertising industry believes the Tories have dropped the M&C Saatchi advertising agency permanently. The broadcast, which was made by the man who designed William Hague's leadership campaign platforms; shows the Conservative leader. talking to people about Tory, values. It included shots of Mr Hague wearing his infamous

Rail inquiry chief quits

The man leading the inquiry into last month's train crash in Southall, west London, in which: seven people died, has resigned over a possible conflict of interest, the Health and Safety

Executive announced last night. The HSE said it was possible that Dr Tony Barrell's position as a non-executive director of BAA plc, which is jointly constructing the Heathrow Express along the same stretch of line in west Lon-don, could be thought to compromise his appointment to head the inquiry.

— Randeep Ramesh

Staff made series of errors over psychiatric patient who killed

Hospital staff and social workers made a series of errors over the treatment of a psychiatric patient who battered her father to death on a home visit, an in-

quiry has found. Sarah Beynon, a 22-year-old insurance clerk, had been allowed out of a secure clinic in Bristol where she was being she carried out the killing with a hammer.

She picaded guilty to manslaughter due to diminished responsibility at Bristol tacked her father Colin in the there was a lack of communi-

garden of the family home and battered him to death with a mallet and a hammer taken from his toolbox. She is now de-Broadmoor.

The inquiry, published yeserrors began soon after Miss Beynon was first admitted to treated for schizophrenia when the mental health unit of Southmead Hospital, Bristol, in August 1994.

The report describes how her medication was poorly monitored: she was not Crown Court in May last year. screened for drug abuse despite The court heard how she at- admitting to taking eestasy:

cation between social workers; and the risk she posed was not formally assessed. She was given leave from

tained indefinitely in Southmead despite her mental state and the report revealed that her unauthorised absences terday, shows that the string of sometimes took place with her father's collusion.

Many risks were taken. without calculation". It said: "[Miss Benyon] behaved repeatedly in a way which created a risk of serious harm both to herself and others."

In January 1995, Miss Beynon was moved to the acute ward at Fromeside secure unit in Bristol where she was often

the only woman among 15 men, despite staff heing well aware of the tensions and difficulties" this produced.

The report, whose chairman was Professor Bridgit Dimond, said: "Up until early June 1995, the clinical team were well aware of [Miss Benyon's] dangerousness, however, from July [she] largely controlled her contact with staff at Fromeside and other mental health workers."

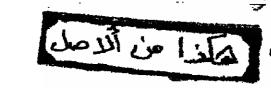
The inquiry said the killing "could probably not have been avoided" although the risk "might have been reduced".

Ann Lloyd of the Healthcare

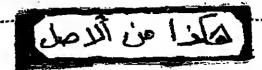
Trust which runs Fromeside -Clinic said: "It was a desperately tragic event and we would like to place on record our sincere regrets to Sarah's family. We acknowledge the shortcomings

highlighted in this report." In a statement, Jenny. Beynon, Sarah's mother, said: "While I welcome Professor: Dimood's report. I sincerely hope it will not be left to gather dust, but will be implemented quickly and effectively and that adequate resources are made available to do-

> — Glenda Caoperi, Social Affairs Correspondent



5/HEALTH NEWS





Cold comfort: The commonest way of catching a cold from an infected person is to shake their hand and later rub your eyes, health experts say

Common colds that begin on the hands

If you should meet a consultant chest physician and sniffle in his presence, he will be unlikely to greet you with a handshake. It is not coughs and sneezes that spread diseases but bands.

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The commonest way of catching a cold from an infected person is by shaking hands with them and later rubbing your eyes. This is a more reliable way of transmitting the virus than breathing near them ur even kissing them.

A guide to facts and fiction about colds and flu was published yesterday by the Consumer Health Information Centre, set up to improve understanding of common ailments by the Proprietary Association of Great Britain which represents pharmacists.

Advised by doctors, nurses and patients' representatives, the centre launched a campaign to beat the bugs that cause the loss of 150 million working days a year.

The guide dismisses the widely held belief that sitting in a draught or getting caught in the rain can bring on a cold. However, working in a modern, air-conditioned building where there are no natural draughts may increase the risk. Studies of US servicemen living in uld, draughty buts had only half as many colds as their counterparts in new quarters.

The average cold lasts from four to 14 days - longer if your hody was at a low ebh when it started. Antihiotics are useless because they act only

against bacteria and colds are pharmacists, is 0845 6061611. caused by viruses.

The tradition of feeding chicken soup to cold sufferers, which dates back to the 13th century, has no scientific foundation beyond the comfurting effects of the warm drink. In 1978 a doctor in Florida tested the soup's effects and found it let patients breathe more easily. "The improvements, however, did not last for long. Any steaming bot drink probably has similar effects," the guide says.

A survey showed eight out of 10 people agreed it was important to treat themselves when they got a cold or flu, but 60 per cent said they had seen a family doctor over a minor problem in the last year. The centre's helpline, staffed by

 Hospitals in Worcestershire and Oxfordsbire have postponed operations because of a shortage of blood, the Midlands region of the National

Blood Service said yesterday. A spokeswaman for the service said supplies of the commonest group 0 blood had been

Bacteria proving resistant to drugs

Illnesses caused by bacteria resistant to antibiotics are growing around the world and are spreading beyond hospitals into the community. Jeremy Laurance, Health Editor, reports on how the over-use of medicines has irretrievably altered the microbiological environment.

Public health experts are becoming increasingly alarmed at the threat to world health from the emergence of new strains of bacteria that cannot be destroyed by antibiotics.

Fears have been fuelled by the discovery of a bug in Japan last May and in the US in July resistant to the antibiutic vancomycin, which is normally the last line of defence against it. The bug was an unusual strain of the MRSA bacterium (methycillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) which is a common cause of hospital infections in Britain.

An international confer-

ence organised by the Gov- pneumonia, ear infections, a ernment Public Health Laboratory Service in London vesterday considered measures to stem the rise in resistant strains. Professor Brian Duerden, deputy director of the service, said the seemingly uncontrolled increase in resis-

There have been some vancomycin resistant enterococci [bacteria] in some bospitals in London that are almost untreatable. It is very worrying." he said, adding that it was not just a hospital problem but was now being seen in the community. "MRSA-infected patients are discharged from hospital with increasing speed and then transferred repeatedly between community facilities

tance presented a major to

challenge to medical practice

and to the community at large.

care centres." One bug which first emerged in Spain, where antibiotics can be bought over the counter and are used in huge quantities, caused an outbreak of infection among children in lociand and was later transferred to the US. The bug, a strain of pneumococcus resistant to penicillin which causes

such as nursing homes and day

type of meningitis and the blood infection, septicaemia, now accounts for a quarter of all resistant strains of pneumo-

'coccus identified in the US. Professor Duerden said: People move and their organisms move with them. With the growth in travel it only needs one rare event on the other side of the world and it becomes an international problem."

Scientists had been warning about the growing problem for 20 years and governments were finally taking notice. In Britain, parliamentary committees are examining the issue and the Chief Medical Officer was also involved. "It has come to the top of the agenda," he said.

It was no good waiting for drug companies to develop new antibiotics. The last new group, the fluoroquinolones0, were introduced 20 years ago and there were no new agents ready to be introduced.

"It is a biological problem. There are limited targets in the bacterial cell that you can aim drugs at. There are a lot of agents that will kill the cell but they will also kill us. The task is to find one that is fatal to the bacterium but not to us."

Threat to dental care

A change in regulations gov- tion - which claims up to 5 with the Government last any patient who has not attended within the last 15 months being dropped from

the NHS list. The British Dental Association said the change, introduced in September last year, threatened to deprive up millions of patients of an NHS dentist. The associa-

on patients could be deregistered without their knowledge - is calling for the restoration of the registration period to 24 months.

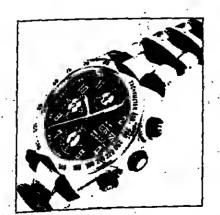
Denlists are paid £5 a year for every patient on their register to ensure continuity of care. The BDA agreed a reduction in the registration period from 24 to 15 months

improvements in children's dentistry. However, the association now says that other changes have yielded savings of £50m and the reduction is no longer required. Figures show that on average patients visit the dentist once

every 19 months. - Jeremy Laurance



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Tories may risk snap poll in Merchant's hot seat

Party organisers are gearing up for a spate of by-elections in the next few weeks. A death, a resignation and a court decision have left voters in three areas wondering who their future MP will be. Fran Abrams weighs up the odds.

Beckenham Conservatives met the party chairman. Lord Parkinson, last night to discuss the resignation of their MP Piers Merchant, sparking rumours that a replacement could be elected before Christmas.

Although no-one would disclose the meeting, party sources suggested Central Office was keen to call a by-election as soon as possible. Mr Merchant resigned on Tuesday after renewed allegations of an affair with an 18-year-old researcher. The local party association's executive will meet tomorrow to decide its next move.

However, some sources said the Beckenham by-election could be held on 27 November, coinciding with the most likely date for the by-election which must be held in Winchester.

Winchester's new Liberal Democrat MP, Mark Oaten. must defend his seat against its former Conservative incumbent, Gerry Malone, after a court decided that his twovote victory in May was invalid. Although the election is bound to be close-run, the Liberal Democrats seem relatively confident. As a sitting member Mr Oaten is bound to have gained status and local recognition.

The Paisley by-election,

caused by the suicide of the Labour MP Gordon McMaster, will be held on 6 November. Labour sources confirmed last night that the date would be announced this week in the London Gazette, the official channel for the writ to be moved while Parliament is not sitting.

Labour's Paisley candidate will be Douglas Alexander, 30, a former speechwriter for Gordon Brown and the late Labour leader John Smith.

The Tories have selected a local florist, Sheila Laidlaw, 58, to fight the seat, but the real contest will be between Labour and the Scottish National Party candidate, Ian Blackford, 36, a financial analyst.

Mr McMaster regained Paisley South with 21,482 votes at the general election to the SNP's 8,732. The Liberal Democrats had 3,500 and the Conservatives 3,200. Despite the safe nature of the seat, Labour is bound to fear that scandals surrounding the former MP's death could damage its vote. Paul Mack, a controversial councillor accused of spreading rumours about him, is to stand independently.

There were no immediate takers for the Beckenham seat last night, although more than 300 applicants are expected. Former ministers who lost their seats in May were thought to be weighing up the idea, though Chris Patten is said to be busy writing a book and Malcolm Rifkind is said to want a Scottish seat.

Yesterday Michael Portillo again appeared to rule himself out - his friends had said it was too soon - though some cynics said he might allow himself to be persuaded to stand.



New terms: A Commons committee was told yesterday that easing accounting rules on student loans could free up to £l bn a year Photograph: Nicola Kurtz to help relieve the cash crisis in higher education

Fix can put £lbn into education

The Government should relax strict accounting rules affecting student loans to free up £1billion a year to ease the higher education funding crisis, a former senior frea-

sury official said yesterday.

Dr Bill Robinson, special adviser to the Chancellor from 1991-93, said ministers could safely change rules which mean student loans are treated by the Treasury as if they will never be paid back. The adjustment would remove loans from public spending, allowing the Government to put more money into higher education and stay within its spending limits.

Arguments over changes to public accounting rules were being heard yesterday by the Commons education and employment select committee as part of its inquiry into higher education funding. The inquiry follows the publication last July of the Dearing Report, and the decision to introduce means-tested tuition fees next September.

Senior economists have told the committee that continuing to classify student lending as spending means there will effectively be no benefit from raising student contributions to higher education untilaround 2007, when the first fee-payers are repaying their loans. However, ministers fear a relaxation in the rules could cause alarm in the City over public spending. -Lucy Word, Education Correspondent

Threat to end child benefit for over-16s lifted

Gordon Brown's proposal to abolish child benefit for the over-16s is at risk, according to Whitehall sources. Anthony Bevins, Political Editor, reports on a

aged 16 to 18 in full-time education - dubbed Labour's "Teenage Tax" by the Tories has been lifted. Parents of children in fulltime education continue to receive the benefit, of £11.05 for pledge which appears to the first child and £9 for subhave vanished without sequent children, up to their

19th birthday. It is not available for over-16s in training. Abolition of the benefit was first floated by Mr Brown, when he was shadow Chancellor in April last year, when it was said that more than a million families could be affected,

with an annual saving to the Ex-The threat to child benefit rechequer of £700m. The plan ceived by mothers with children was to redirect the cash to help low and middle-income families with children in education or training, penalising parents like those with children in the sixth-form at Eton.

Tony Blair subsequently supported a review, when he said: "It makes absolute sense to look hard at all the sources of money in this area, and to review the present system and see whether it's fair, whether it's efficient, whether the money could not be better used in extending opportunity for people currently denied it."

But The Independent has been told that the Lahour leader wanted a review as a device to kick an unpopular idea into touch - a means of dropping it, without embarrassing

The Labour election manifesto said: "We are committed to retain universal child benefit where it is universal today from birth to age 16 - and to uprate it at least to line with prices." But it then added: 'We are reviewing educational finance and maintenance for those older than 16 to ensure higher staying-on rates at school and college, and that re-

sources are used to support those most in need. This review will continue in government."

Whitehall sources have said that an inter-departmental review, led by the Department for Education and Employment, has been at work for some months. The Chancellor said in his Budget speech, on 2 July, that the review would be completed "to ensure that resources are used to support those most in need".

But two sources from different departments have said that the review has "run into the eround".

Implementation of Mr

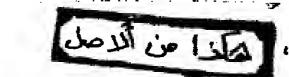
Brown's idea was said not to have the support of Cahinet colleagues; it was said to be much too complicated to implement; and would not generate sufficient savings from the better-

off to make it worthwhile. A spokeswoman for the DfEE confirmed that a review was taking place, but she was unable to offer any published reference to it by any of her department's ministers.

The Commons library said that It had nothing on its parliamentary database to show that any minister in any other department had said anything about the proposal since May.

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Anatomy of a sting: how an MP was trapped

Conservative MP Piers Merchant was the latest victim of tabloid newspaper investigations into sleaze.

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Kim Sengupta looks at the newspaper operation behind his fall, and examines the questions it raises about privacy and the press.

The flat was in York, the room had "traditional" oak beams and a "huge" double bed. Lying "provocatively" on this bed was a crotchless, fake-leopardskin body suit. Anna Cox held it up to Piers Merchant and his friend and former researcher Anthony Gilberthorpe, and murmured "Only Piers is going to see me in this, and he will have to wait". All this and much, much more was being video-taped, and lies locked away in the offices of the Sun-

On Tuesday, Mr Merchant, the MP for Beckenham, resigned, just 24 hours after after threatening legal action against the Sunday Mirror, and posing for a photo opportunity with his wife Helen and his mistress, Anna Cox, an 18year-old former nightclub hostess. He had discovered the sheer extent of the evidence of adultery the newspaper had

gathered against him. Since the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, and the questioning of media tactics that followed, this was the first ter the election, the couple got major tabloid excursion in exposing the alleged sexual trans-

gressions of a public figure. The Press Complaints Commission had promised a clam- no qualms about covering the pdown on intrusions into story. Mr Merchant was a hypoprivacy. But Mr Merchant has crite who needed to be exposed. not, as yet complained. If he did, At Blackpool he said: "The the newspaper's defence will be public interest. The MP, they could say, has consistently lied about his relationship with Ms Cox and hypocritically used the

issue to castigate the press. The most potent evidence in the newspaper's armoury is the one which could in fact lead to the most concern about the methods used in a newspaper investigation - the video and audio tapes which allegedly prove Mr Merchant was much more than just a good friend of Ms Cox, as he had claimed to the public and his constituency.

Apart from the sexual aspoct, the tapes also apparently recorded Mr Merchant naking Heil Hitler salutes Tabout Mr Gilberthorpe becoming the owner and boss of an antique centre below his flat, and making remarks about senior Tories.

How did the Sunday Mirror get this? It was arranged MP had resigned.

through Anthony Gilberthorpe, and filmed at his York home, the apparatus being set up by a surveillance expert.

It is understood that Mr Gilberthorpe, who had worked for Mr Merchant in the mid 80s when he was MP for Newcastle Central and subsequently kept in touch, took the story to the Sunday Mirror at the end of last week. A figure of around £25,000 was negotiated. Mr Gilberthorpe has not been available for comment since.

It was also Mr Gilberthorpc who supplied other details of the trip, such as how Ms Cox, on her way to York, visited the National Council for Cosmetic Surgery in Birmingham for a post-operative check-up on implants which had enlarged her breasts.

The Sunday Mirror's informant had told them that Mr Merchant, 46, who has two children, was taking Ms Cox to the Tory conference in Blackpool. While there, he would be attending a fringe meeting about press and privacy, and take the opportunity to make a strong attack on tabloid newspapers from the point of view of an "innocent victim".

His "victimisation" bad come just before the election. Then, the self-same Ms Cox had gone to the the Sun through the offices of agent Max Clifford claiming she was having a relationship with Mr Merchant. Ms Cox claimed she had been "used" as Mr Merchant's "plaything" - however, she was paid about £20,000 by the Sun. Afback together again.

The Sunday Mirror, part of the Mirror Group which owns shares in The Independent, had tabloids ... distort reality ... of ten of course the story is completely fictional".

A team of four reporters and two photographers were dispatched to track Mr Merchant and Ms Cox. They compiled a portfolio of photos, 12 of which were to be used, in a six-page spread. To back it all up, there

were the tapes whirling away. Mr Merchant and Ms Cox were finally confronted on a train journey to London. He apparently wanted to know just how much the paper "had" on him. He then called his wife on his mobile phone, and left.

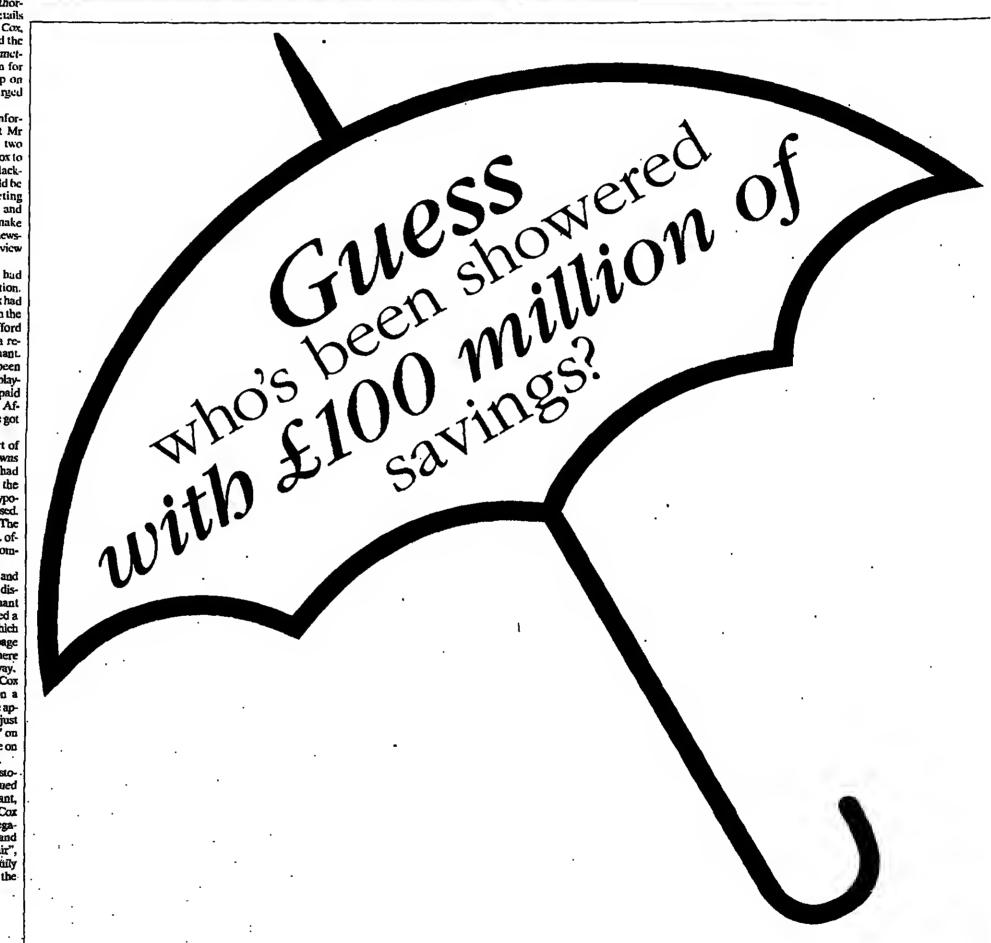
After the Sunday Mirror story appeared, a statement issued in the name of Mr Merchant, his wife Helen, and Ms Cox spoke of " scurrilous allegations", and insisted "Anna and Piers are not having an affair" and that Anna was a "family friend". Within 48 hours, the





Before the fall: Piers Merchant, left, with his wife before the general election. He denied - and still denies - having an affair with Anna Cox. right, who he and his family insist is just a

> Photographs: PA Andrew Buurman



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MPs set to close door on Hamilton

Neil Hamilton is unlikely to be aniled to give more evidence to the Commons select committee on standards and privileges after making spectacular allegations to clear his name.

The disgraced former minister yesterday repeated warnings that he would "name names" if he was given the chance to give more evidence to the select committee.

But there was little enthusiasm among the cross-party committee for giving Mr Hamilton another platform to make further allegations under parliamentary privilege. "He could say what he likes outside the Commons," said one source. "That is up to him."

The reluctance to call Mr Hamilton to give further evidence will be seen as a signal that the committee will seek to hring the inquiry into his conduct to a swift conclusion when it meets again in a fortnight.

The committee is expected to discuss the possibility of calling Mohamed Al Fayed,

the owner of Harrods, who was accused by Mr Hamilton of ordering a break-in into the private safe-deposit box of Tiny Rowland, his rival in the battle to take over the store.

The committee was impressed by his skill as a barrister, but there are doubts that there was anything substantive and new in Mr Hamilton's evidence which could shake the damning conclusion of Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, that the evidence that he had accepted cash for

questions was "compelling". Mr Hamilton, who admits failing to register a stay at the Ritz, Paris, at Mr Fayed's expense, yesterday said he did plan to name other MPs who had infringed Commons rules.

"I am saying that Sir Gordon is retrospectively changing the rules. I will name those people, hut not to say they have acted disgracefully.

Chief Political Correspondent

Star quality: Stella McCartney celebrating at her show yesterday Photograph: AP

All you need is style: Stella McCartney provides a hit for Chloë

"All you need is love" ran the opening refrain at Stella McCartney's soundtrack for her first collection for the house of Chloe vesterday in Paris. She has the name and the fame already. Now, all she really needs is the design reputation to live up to it all.

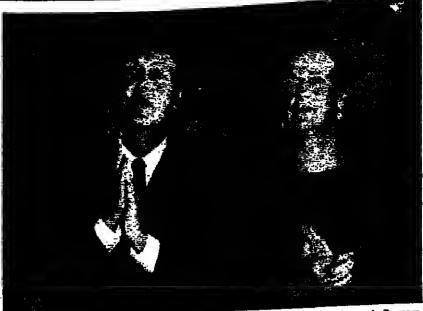
The collection was just as we expected: clothes for people like Stella. Lace dresses, cleavages, masculine tailoring and a lot of saucy cheek. It was the most relevant Chloë has been to fashionable young women for many a season.

McCartney's parents, Linda and Paul, watched as her collection was presented at the Opera Garnier. Linda, to whom the collection was dedicated, said: "I loved it all. I wanted every outfit."

At Alexander McQueen's second ready-to-wear collection for Givenchy, it was the dream team of Katy England and McQueen at their glorious best. The theme was country and western as Tammy Wynette and Dolly Parton have never seen it before.

Givenchy did well to renew McQueen's contract for another three to five years. His tailoring - seen with crystal sequin trouser suits, bustier dresses and his signature all-in-one trouser suit - reigned supreme. Although the styling was pure Eighties cowgirl, you won't have to look like a rancher to wear the clothes when they hit the stores next spring.





- Tomsin Blanchard Proud parents: Paul and Linda McCartney in Paris yesterday Photograph: Reuters

New powers to lock up young offenders

Plans for a further crackdown on teenage tearaways were announced yesterday. Jason Bennetto, Crime Correspondent, on a Home Office package aimed at faster

Persistent child offenders as young as 12 can be locked up by courts while waiting for their cases to be heard, under measures revealed yesterday by the Home Office.

youth justice.

The move to give magistrates greater powers to detain young people on remand follows of cases involving youths, such as the so-called "rat boy", who have committed dozens of crimes with impunity.

Solicitors, probation officers, and the police could also face fines for failing to meet the new time limits for dealing with young offenders in court.

The package of measures, disclosed by Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, seeks to speed up youth justice and to nip in the bud offending among the very young before they become serious criminals.

One area of concern is the courts and police inability to deal with criminals aged under 15. At present only social service directors can have offenders placed in secure local authority accommodation while they await their case in the youth court.

The forthcoming Crime and Disorder current delays were due to underfunding.

Bill will contain provisions to allow magistrates to lock up persistent offenders - defined as anyone who has been convicted on three occasions and faces a forth charge within three years of the last offence - until the case is dealt with.

This provision is only expected to affect a small number of youngsters, but an extra 170 places have been made available to increase the number of places in secure acmmodation in England and Wales to 400.

Vulnerable teenagers aged 15 and 16, some of whom are currently held on remand in jails, will also be kept in the local authority units in future. However, Labour's plans to ensure that no 15- and 16-year-olds on remand are kept in prison or young offenders' institutions appear to have been

shelved because of cost, The Home Secretary was also announcing a "fast track" system to deal

with persistent young offenders. Time limits to reduce delays for all young offenders are to be introduced. Courts will be expected to halve the current average of four and a half months for a young person who commits an offence to be sentenced. Anyone who fails to meet the set time limits will face fines, the rate of which has yet to be decided. This system could be extended to adult courts.

But the proposals drew fire from probation officers who argued that many of the

BBC poses Paxman question

The BBC is to research viewers' attitudes to its interviewers' technique as part of a new set of "performance promises" disclosed by the corporation yesterday.

The research, which will take place over the next six months, will try to find out whether viewers believe interviewers like Newsnight's Jeremy Paxman or Today's John Humphrys are too aggressive with politicians or not aggressive enough.

Sir Christopher Bland, chairman of the BBC governors, said: "It's an area where we would like some guidance from our viewers. If the whole style of BBC interviewing is endorsed by the process, then that's fine." He denied that the research meant the BBC was going to be managed by focus

Politicians have clashed with BBC interviewers repeatedly, but Sir Christopher denied the research was in response to politicians' concerns.

■ The BBC's Statement of Promises document can be ordered. on 0990 118811.

- Paul McCann, Media Correspondent

Libraries' Internet revolution

Books will remain at the heart of the nation's libraries despite a huge campaign to connect the entire system to the Internet by 2002, said Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture,

"Development of new technology will complement hut not replace the traditional role of libraries. Giving everyone access to information technology is probably the single most important issue facing public libraries today," he said at the launch of a report, New Library: The People's Network, from the Library and Information Commission.

The report, advocates spending £770m computerising Britain's libraries.

Parents were not told of heart surgery's high risk

The General Medical Council inquiry into the conduct of two paediatric heart surgeons yesterday heard for the first time from parents of babies who died during or after operations. Kathy Marks describes a day of emotional evidence.

The parents of nine-month-old Hanna Silcox, born with a hole in her heart, were told by James Wisheart that she had an 80 per cent chance of surviving surgery. She died on his operating table. Afterwards, he allegedly said it had been "one of the best jobs 1 have ever done".

Hanna's mother, Lisa Silcox, 27, of Brixham, Devon, told the GMC's professional conduct committee that she and her husband, Andrew, had assumed that they were "the unlucky one in five".

But the disciplinary hearing, regarded as the most important medical inquiry of the decade, has been told that by the time of the operation in August 1994, eight of Mr Wisheart's 14 infant patients had already died during or after similar surgery.

Mr Wisheart, together with his fellow surgeon, Janardan Dhasmana, and Dr John Roylance, former chief executive of the Bristol United Healthcare NHS Trust,

all deny charges of serious professional misconduct. The charges relate to two types of complex surgery to correct congenital heart defects performed on babies at Bristol Royal Infirmary between 1988 and 1995.

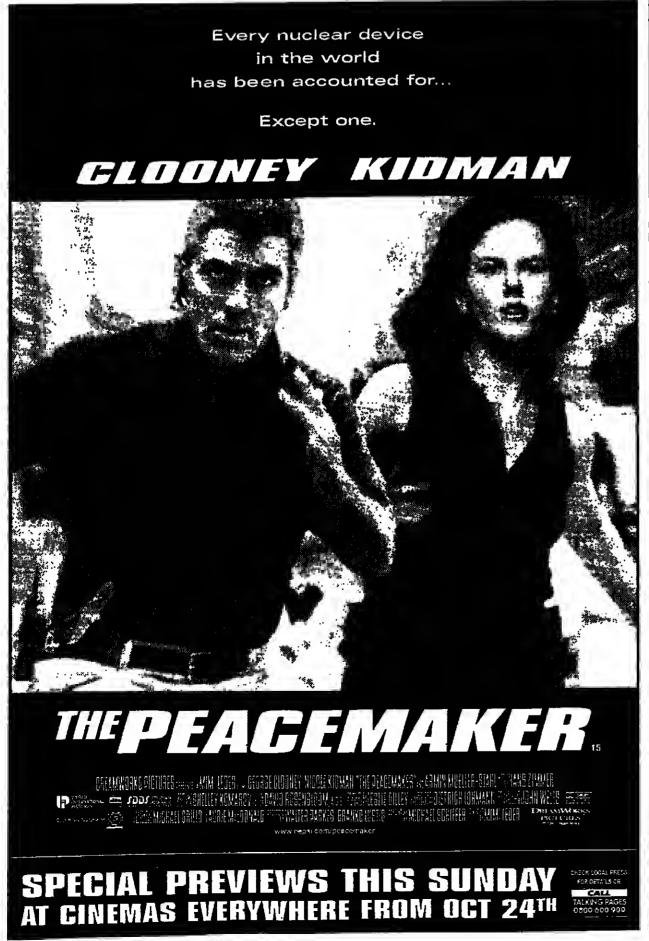
Mrs Silcox told the hearing that after Hanna's operation she and her husband wrote to Mr Wisheart, who has since retired, to thank him for his work. He wrote back to say how sorry he was about her death...

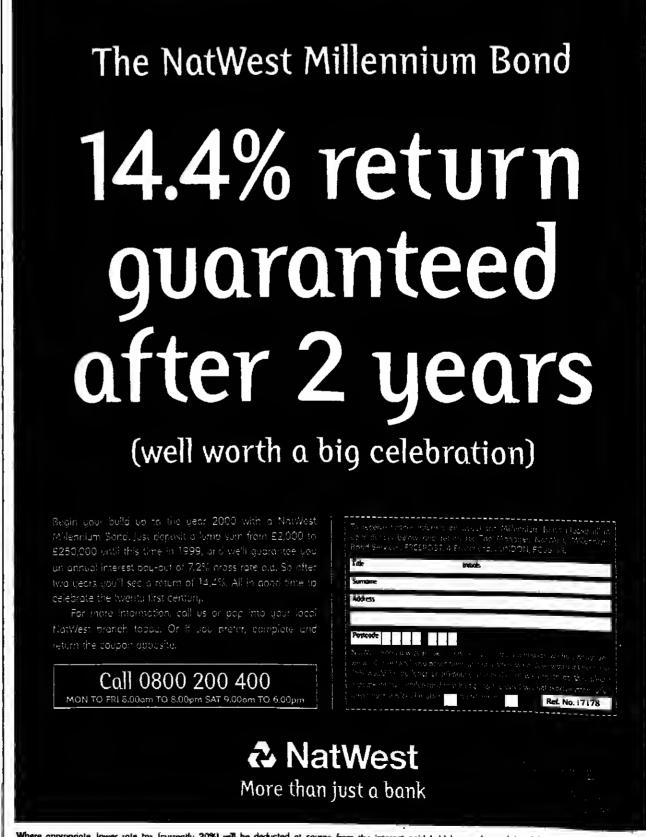
Had she known about the surgeon's track record, Mrs Silcox said, she would have approached a different hospital. "If they had said the risk was as high, I would not have gone ahead with the surgery," she said.

Sandy Rundle, whose 10-month-old son, Matthew, died after a similar operation performed by Mr Wisheart in July 1994, said that he had told her that the chances of survival were 90 per cent. Mrs Rundle, 31, of Tintagel, Cornwall, said: "Mr Wisheart drew a diagram of the operation and said it needed to be done sooner rather than later. He said it was a straightforward procedure. I thought if Matthew had the operation, everything would be OK."

After the surgery, Mrs Rundle said, Mr Wisheart said it had gone "relatively well". However, Matthew, who also had Down's syndrome, died 10 days later.

The GMC committee is to hear evidence nbout operations on 53 babies, of whom 29 died and four suffered serious brain damage.





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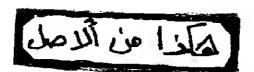
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Free rail tickets for **strike-hit travellers**

Reclaiming fares for a late or delayed train service has always been difficult. Now the railway franchising director wants to change the rules. Randeep Ramesh, Transport form of compensation." Correspondent, on compensating travellers.

Industry sources say that the shake-up was precipitated by Connex South Central, a key London commuter service. It refused to pay compensation to travellers under its passengers' charter after cancelling hundreds of trains a day. Experts had suggested this could have cost the company £2.5m.

Connex, instead, argued that industrial action by drivers caused it to implement an "emergency" timetable. Rail passengers hit by industrial action in June - which saw nearly 20 per cent of scheduled services cut - will be given three days of free travel as compensation. Analysts say this would cost Connex only

The franchising director,

John O'Brien, who oversees the en a hard line. This has set the privatised rail companies, claimed that the offer of three days' free travel was "reasonable". He added: "Many passengers did not receive an acceptable level of service during the summer and were therefore entitled to receive some

However Mr O'Brien's office has recognised that many travellers using the line will not be compensated for the cancellations. At present, passengers on InterCity services can claim a percentage for late-run-ning or cancelled trains. Great Western, which runs services from London to Bristol, offers is giving with one hand he is up to 40 per cent of a ticket price for trains more than an

Mr O'Brien is aware that thousands of travellers with weekly tickets or daily returns will be left uncompensated by Connex. This would change under proposals under consideration by his officials.

The Connex deal affects more than 15,000 season ticket holders on Connex South Central's south London line, where an 11-day strike by train drivers led to the cancellation

of more than 200 trains a day. Officials said they had takItalians forced to back-pedal on bicycle claims



Drawing blanks: Sketches of a bicycle (top) credited to Leonardo production of a lost original by the master. da Vinci may have been done by a monk in the 1960s Photograph: PA



It has not been a good week for Italy. A nation still in shock from the toppling of its once all-powerful football team by England and the tremors of a succession of earthquakes in Umbria was rocked again vesterday as cracks appeared in another symbol of its national pride.

Italy's claims to have discovered the bicycle, through the inventive genius of Leonardo da Vinci, were yesterday looking decidedly shaky after further examination of his Renaissance manuscripts. In 1974, when the papers were dis-

covered, experts concluded that though the bicycle drawing did not come from da Vinci's own hand, it was a pupil's rough re-But a German historian, Hans-Erhard

Lessing, has investigated the manuscripts and claims that the bicycle diagram was tampered with as recently as the 1960s.

He told New Scientist magazine: "No one questioned it. The Italians were ecstatic to have invented the bicycle." Mr Lessing tracked down an art his-

torian, Carlo Pedretti, from the University of California at Los Angeles, who examined the folded pages before they were restored by Italian monks in the 1960s. He held the papers up to a strong light yet saw no sign of a bicycle.

Instead, his notebook recorded two circles with curved lines through them where the cycle now appears. Mr Pedretti said: What I saw was not a bicycle."

is to be told

STAFF CHEFFE

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precedent for future disruption.

Operators have to give season

ticket holders extra days for the

formance regime, the fran-

chising director - who split np

and sold off British Rail to the

private sector - did actually pay

Connex a £32,000 "punctuali-

ty bonus" for the trains the com-

Rail pressure groups also

highlighted that the franchising

director had allowed Connex

South Central to raise its fares

by up to 5.3 per cent next year.

"What the franchising director

taking with another. Passengers

can get a few extra days' travel,

but they are also facing above-

the London Rail Users'

Consultative Committee, said

that Connex had said

passengers were unlikely to

get any compensation under the

passengers' charter if their

performance improved over

the year. "Inner London

services suffered a great deal.

We think that three days free

travel for season ticket holders

is fair," he added.

Rufus Barnes, secretary of

inflation fare rises."

Under the privatisation per-

disruption they face."

pany did run.



home works SHOPPING HOURS: Thurs 10-8, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5, Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6. Northern Ireland exceptions: Thurs 10-9, Fri 10-9, Sun 12-5, Mon 10-6, Wed 10-9.

British team take Thrust through the speed record

They have been dogged by bad weather and technical problems but yesterday the British Thrust team finally broke the supersonic land speed record, as Kate Watson-Smyth describes.

The RAF pilot Andy Green, streaked across the Nevada desert for the fourth time yesterday afternoon and straight into the record books.

Thrust roared over the desert track on its first run at 759.333mph (1,214.933kph) or 1.5 per cent above the speed of sound, according to the official timekeepers from the United States Automobile Club.

Some 55 minutes later, it sped back down the track, reaching a speed of

766,609mph (1,226,574kph) or 2 per cent above the speed of sound for an everage two-way speed of 763.035mph (1,220.856kph).

Under international rules both runs must be made within one hour for the ettempt to qualify but earlier in the week, when Mr Green hroke the sound barrier twice, it took 61 minutes for engineers to prepare Thrust for the second run and the attempt did not count.

The team considered trying again on Tuesday, the 50th aner in a rocket-powered plane, favourable conditions of early morning in the desert.

Richard Noble, the Icam

leader, said Thrust's engines are more efficient and the speed of sound is lower when temperatures are cooler and the humidity is higher.

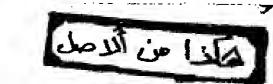
"It's a very complex equation," Mr Noble said. "The speed of sound comes down relative to the ground speed. By running early in the morning, we get more power from our engines. The car doesn't have to go so fast."

Mach I varies between about 750mph and 765mph (1,200-1,230kmb), depending on the weather.

Mr Noble, 51, held the land speed record himself, set here on 4 October 1983, at 633.46mph (1,019.4kmh), until niversary of Chuck Yeager's Mr Green, 35, broke his mark flight through the sound barri- on 25 September with a twoway average speed of hut opted for the more 714.144mph (1.149.3kma). making him the first person to break the sound barrier on

Mr Green's fastest run so far was on Monday, when he pushed Thrust to 764.168mph. calculated at 1.007 times the speed of sound, or Mach 1.

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Sushi and saki set give way to a new generation

The Yaohan Plaza, the huge Japanese shopping centre in north London, is to be sold. Business problems in Japan and staff difficulties have all hit the complex. But Tim Large says it also shows that the face of the Japanese community in London is changing.

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When Europe's first Japanese shopping centre threw open its doors for husiness in Colindale, north London, four years ago, there was something almost hubristic about the hype. The London Evening Standard predicted that Yaohan Plaza would turn the region into "a mecca for the young, the trendy and the culturally-inquisitive".

Then there were the muchpublicised company slogans,

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Sold: The Yaohan Plaza failed to entice the non-Japanese shoppers

anted ritually each by employees, British and Japanese alike. "Yaohan will be the number one store in Europe!" they cried in unison, punching the air.

"It all sounds a hit hollow now," admitted a source last week. Yaohan met its nemesis in September when its Japanese affiliate, Yaohan Japan, went insolvent with £816m worth of debts. Its collapse marked the end of an ambitious - some would say risky - quest to become "the Sony of the retail industry".

Yaohan UK, meanwhile, has been independently negotiating a sell-out to Malaysian retailing giant Faroamaz. With a price tag of less than £15m, the company will recoup under a third of its initial outlay of £55m in 1993. Debts from the London mall are said to have contributed to Yaohan Japan's

spectacular fall. All of which begs a lot of questions about what went wrong. Judging by Yaohan's world-wide success in the 1980s, the British initiative promised to take London by storm. Behind the exotic allure of sushi, kimonos and daruma dolls lay the hard-boiled pragmatism of a family business that had expanded into 15 countries

with over 450 stores.

han's mission to bring the East to the West failed to entice London's non-Japanese communi-

Many in London's 25,000strong Japanese community, centred mostly in Finehley, Camden and Ealing, were also lukewarm. "I went to Yaohan once or twice at the start," says Kazuu Udagawa, a teacher, "but it's just too far away and too expensive."

Others complain about the range of imported goods available, or even the quality. "When I huy food in the supermarket, it's often past its useby date," says Keiko Yoshizawa, an architecture student in Colindale.

There are also signs that the face of London's Japanese community is changing. Numhers of students, researchers and teachers - who often cannot afmagazine - have increased 8.7 per cent from the previous year. The number of single company employees has also shot up. For Yaohan, which relies primarily on weekend shoppers with families, this has been had news.

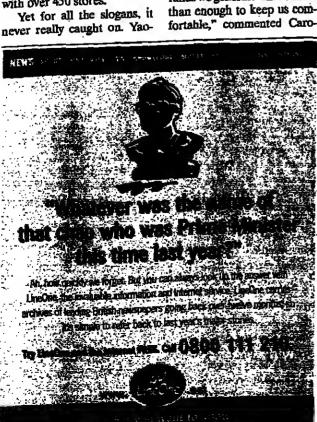
So had, in fact, that in 1995 the mall changed its name to the Oriental Plaza, opening its floor space to restaurants and stalls representing London's other Asian communities. Chinesc, Korean, Vietnamese and Malaysian stands now jostle for space among the sushi bars and okonomiyaki counters of the once exclusively-Japanese food court. The Chinese community now represents Yaohan's main customer base.

"The spirit went out the window after the first year." commented a source who preferred to remain anonymous, hlaming low morale for many of the company's woes. "It's sad place like this with a certain mystique and attraction for English people, disintegrates from within."

Different cultural attitudes towards conducting business also factored, say some, with Japanese management practices not always squaring with the expectations of British employees. The initial fascination with lining up in the morning to sing the company song - a ritual intended to foster corporate spirit - soon wore thin as losses started accruing.

Insiders have also complained of managerial aloofness, or even downright misconduct. Alan Jones, a former assistant manager, was awarded £20,000 in January for unfair dismissal. He was, ludicrously, sacked for having "poor English", although his superiors "could barely converse in English at all", as the tribunal chairman Michael Rabin put it. Mr Jones's list of grievances also included "taunting" and racial discrimination.

After the sale is finalised next month, Yaohan will remain in the mall as a tenant of Faroamaz, keeping its Japanese supermarket. Officials stress that under new management the future looks bright. "When we do become a tenant, the funds we generate will be more than enough to keep us com-





ford up to £10 for an imported Modern times: The Japanese in London are younger and more dynamic than 20 years ago Photograph: Andrew Buurman

Music and manga hit the mainstream

The profile of the Japanese community in Britain has changed dramatically over the last 20 years, helping to spark a booming interest in Japanese exotica, particularly among the nation's trendy twenty-some-

Some 55,000 Japanese currently live in the United Kingdom, compared to just over 6,000 in 1976, according to statistics compiled by the Japanese Embassy.

Almost 25,000 are concentrated in London. Traditional enclaves include Ealing, Edgeware, Finchley, Golders Green and Camden - though more and more expatriates are starting to move south of the

Company workers represent just under 40 per cent. while numbers of students, researchers and teachers have been growing steadily. In 1996 they comprised 43 per cent of the total Japanese population in the UK, up almost 9 per cent from 1995.

The result is a younger, more dynamic community one that is less willing to keep itself to itself.

In addition, young holidaymakers back home are eschewing the traditional Hawaiian tours to visit Britain independently. Last year, 595,000 apanese spent £448m throughout the country, compared to 211,000 spending £94m in 1985.

There are now more than 1,250 japanese-owned businesses in the UK, including some 50 banks and more than 200 manufacturers. Throughout the 70s there were hardly

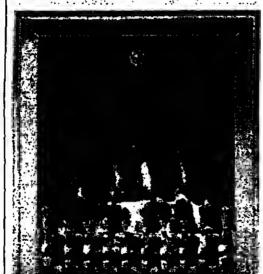
As the community grows, so does the influence of Japanese culture. The first Japanese restaurants set up shop in London in the late 60s. Now there are more than 150. Noodle bars like the wildly successful Wagamama in Bloomsbury have sprung up from Brixton to Colindale, and sushi has become something of

an institution. The same is true of other Japanese exports - from karaoke to manga to tamagotchi. Popular music, too, has made its mark, both in the clubs and on the radio.

And just in case you've forgotten, the London-based pop group Shonen Knife did girl power long before the Spice

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Briton shares Nobel prize for his work on ageing

A Briton was among those who won the Nobel Chemistry prize awarded yesterday, while the Physics prize went to a group whose work on methods to cool and trap atoms with laser light could lead to the design of more precise atomic clocks, crucial for accurate satellite navigation. Margaret Rogerson reports.

The Royal Academy of Sciences in Stockholm took the unusual step of splitting the Chemistry award. Half went to Jens Skou from Denmark, and the remainder was split between John Walker and Paul Boyer from Britain and the United States respectively.

Mr Boyer has been professor emeritus at the University of California since 1990 and Mr Walker has been a senior scientist at the Medical Research Council Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge since 1982. Mr Boyer and Mr Walker received the award for their work on how the enzyme ATP Synthase uses energy to recreate itself. Mr Skou was the first to show that enzymes can promote the transport of substances through a cell membrane.

Mr Walker and his team found that a running down of the mechanism of ATP Synthase could play a key role in diseases related to ageing. Our ability to convert food into ATP diminishes irreversibly as we age. and such problems could play an important



John Walker: Research aids study of

part in diseases which occur in later life such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's.

The fact that a British scientist has been included in the scientific Nobel prizes will bring some comfort to British scientists who have become increasingly despondent about government spending on scientifie research and development. Since 1986, only three British scientists have won scientific Nohel prizes. By comparison, in 1946-56 British scientists won 10 Nobel prizes, and in the following three decades 11, 12, and eight respectively.

The Nobel Physics prize, worth £600,000, went to Steven Chu, of Stanford University, William D Phillips, of the US National Institute of Standards and Technology in Maryland and Claude Cohen-Tannoudji, of the College de France and Ecole Normale Supérieure of Paris.

"The new methods of investigation that the Nobel laureates have developed have contributed greatly to increasing our knowledge of the interplay between radiation and marter," said the official citation.

The citation explained the complicated work by comparing an atom to a stone sliding along ice. If the atom meets a photon - the particles that make up a light beam-travelling in the opposite direction, the photon's energy is transferred to the atom, slowing it down. If this is done enough times, the atom's speed will be reduced significantly. The laureates have developed ways of using lasers to cool gases to within a few millionths of a degree above absolute zero, -273C, the point at which all motion theoretically stops.

Peter Bance, an atomic physicist at Oxford University, said yesterday: "Their work on 'optical molasses' forms the hasis of many experiments in atomic physics done today. It has allowed a whole new realm of incredibly low temperatures to be explored and exploited both in the lab and in the market place. The recent spectacular success of American groups in achieving a new state of matter called BEC was a direct result of techniques pioneered by this years prizewinners."



Photograph: AFP city's monthly emergency drill simulating a poison gas attack

conservative

Democrats leader Cheryl

The government's obses-

Ms Kernot did not warn her

The government said Ms

Opposition leader Kim Bea-

India gags the Queen

The Queen yesterday cancelled a planned speech in Madras, southern Indian, after the hosts refused to let ber speak at a state governor's banquet.

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The speech scheduled for today had not been included in the initial programmes discussed by British officials with Indian diplomats. It was raised in a meeting on 7 October, five days before the Queen's arrival, when it was firmly turned down by Indian protocol officials.

"Only one banquet speech is scheduled for a visiting bead of state, which is normally given at the banquet hosted by our president," the Indian Foreign Ministry said.

A ministry spokesman, Talmiz Ahmed, said it was not a last-minute cancellation, as was being portrayed by British diplomats.

While the Indians used unusually direct language, the British tried to play down the latest in a series of controversies, calling it a slight misunderstanding. "We are taking no offence," Judith Slater, a government spokeswoman, said,

"If the Indian preference is no exchange of toast in Madras, there is absolutely no problem," Ms Slater said, adding that Buckingham Palace had known of the opposition to the speech, but the Foreign Office had not.



Australia rocked Mahathir's anti-Jewish tirade branded 'utter nonsense' by Democrat

The Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad was yesterday accused of speaking "utter nonsense", stirring up embarrassment and damaging the local currency by suggesting that Jews were behind the country's financial woes, Stanley Roth, the US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia, who is in Hong Kong for a conference organised by the World Economie Forum, said no one took seriously Mr Mahathir's accusation that speculative attacks on regional currencies were part of a Jewish "agenda". "Furthermore, I think it has hurt Malaysia [m] that we have seen a direct correlation between some of these outrageous allegations and

the fall in the currency in Malaysia as well as the stock market." On Friday, the national Bernama news agency quoted Mr Mahathir, talking about the currency crisis, as saying: "We may suspect that they [the Jews] have an agenda but we do not want to accuse." The Malaysian ringgit fell sharply again yesterday to 3.1575 to the dollar from 3.107 earlier in the session.

Congo PM flees rebel charge

The Congo Republic's Prime Minister, Bernard Kolelas, and so of his ministers have fied to Kinshasa to escape an advance by former military leader Denis Sassou Nguesso, a senior Congolese army officer said yesterday.

But the officer said the whereabouts of President Pascal Lissouba were unknown after a lightning Angolan-backed offensive by rebel militia in the oil-producing country. The officer said Mr Kolelas' arrival signalled the formal collapse of Lissouha's administration and he confirmed that Nguesso's forces were now in control of the capital Brazzaville.- Reuters

Cubans welcome Che home

Thousands of Cuhans stood in silent tribute to welcome the remains of Ernesto "Che" Guevara to Santa Clara, the city where the legendary leftist guerrilla will finally be laid to rest. The remains of Guevara, and six of his former comrades-in-arms who died with him trying to spark a revolution in Bolivia 30 years ago, were brought from Havana in a slow military cortège.

Santa Clara residents, some carrying flowers, crammed the streets to see the procession. They packed the park near the Jose Marti library as the cortège came to a halt. The wooden caskets were taken inside the library where they are on display for public viewing before tomorrow's funeral ceremony. — Reuters

British tourists wounded in Tamil Tiger bomb blast

Tamil rebels brought their secessionist war to the capital yesterday for the first time this year, exploding a bomb in the heart of Colombo and fighting a pitched battle in a government building. There were 15 dead and several Britons

were among the 105 wounded.

The dead, all Sri Lankans, included four security guards shot by rehels as they forced their way into the parking lot of the luxury Galadari Hotel to set off a truck bomh, the army deputy chief of staff said. Four civilians and three Tamil rebels also dled in street hattles. An army commando was killed storming a government building where rebels holed up after the bombings.

The Galadari hotel is across the street from government offices that President Chandrika Kumaratunga rarely uses. She was at her home about a mile away when the hiasts occurred.

The rebels drove a truck laden with explosives into the hotel car park, then fired a rocket-propelled grenade to set it off, the army said. The parking lot abuts the rear of Colombo's trade centre, twin 39-story towers that house the Colombo Stock Exchange and the Information Ministry. The complex, the tallest in Sri Lanka, was inaugurated on Sunday and was probably a main rebel target.

After the bomh blasts, three rebels took refuge in the fivestory huilding that houses Sri Lanka's state-run newspapers. Sri Lankan army commandos lobbed grenades into the building and stormed inside. Shortly afterward workers emerged, hut grenade and machine-gun fire continued inside for hours.

The truck-bomb and cyanide capsules are hallmarks of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eclam, the main rebel group that has been fighling since 1983 to carve out an independent homeland for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

The BBC reported that the Tigers denied responsibility for the attack. But the Sri Lankan Foreign Ministry spokesman, Ravinatha Aryasinha, blamed

the Tigers, saying the attack proves they "do not care for international opinion or the safety of civilians, including foreigners who have nothing to

do with the present conflict". It was the first major terrorist attack this year in Colourbo, where security has been stepped up as the war in the north with the Tamil rebels intensified.

Since May, the Tigers have suffered heavy losses in one of the conflict's biggest battles, defending the northern highway to the Jaffna Peninsula against a major military assault. The government says 2,000 people have died in the five-month battle.

Yesterday's explosions and gun battle were barely 200 yards from the site of the 1996 suicide-bombing of the Central Bank that killed 88 people and injured 1,400.

More than 50,000 people have been killed since the uprising began. Analysts said the attack was possibly a strong message from the LTTE that they cannot be left out of the government's efforts to end the war. The two sides are not speaking.



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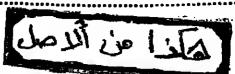
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13/DESPATCHES



Street fighting men create Wild West in Papua

Violence is spreading in Papua New Guinea, as lack of opportunity and access to modern weaponry exacerbate traditional tribal tensions. Our correspondent explains how the rascals are worse than they sound

Every other week, usually on pay day, the town of Mt Hagen in the mountains of Papua New Guinea plays host to a famous fortnightly rock concert. Despite its status as capital of the Western Highlands provioce, Mt Hagen is not a place rich in cultural amenities: a couple of hotels (the third one burned down in mysterious circumstances earlier this month), an expatriate sports and social club, all of them behind high walls wreathed with razor wire.

The "rock concert", too, is unconventional, as an Australian policeman, on official loan to the Papuan government explains. "We call it the rock concert for

BY RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

a very simple reason," he says. "The clan people from the villages pick up their money for the fortnight. Then they come into town, they form a big crowd, and for a comple of hours they throw rocks at one another.

The Papua New Guinea Highlands, an isolated pocket of tribal people first encountered by the outside world less than 70 years ago, have a history unlike anywhere else in the world, but their atmosphere today is that of a tropical frontier territory. This is a region oo the margins of modern civilisation, a country of miners and missionaries, and a magnet for fortune seekers in gold, oil and gas. In the towns, indigeoous people mix with a flotsam of assorted foreigners - preachers, lawmen and fortune-hunters. Io the countryside, a single asphalt highway stretches from the Solomon Sea almost to the Indonesian border; the rest of the territory is largely connected by loose tracks.

The police are few and under-re- control? sourced, and it is madness to walk anywhere after dark. If the Highlands are the Wild West of Papua New Guinea (PNG), theo

version of the state of lawlessness that afflicts much of the country. "Undoubtedly," as PNG's newly appointed Police Commissioner, Peter Aigilo, said this week, "crime in the country is out of

The most remarkable thing about crime here is not its frequency, but its variety. With the exception of religious conflict. PNG has just about every kind of violence

rebellioo in the island of Bougainville. In Mt Hageo alone, there is tribal fighting, sports hooliganism, political violence and straightforward banditry.

Last week began wholesomely enough. with a rugby league match between the Mt Hagen Panthers and a team from the coastal town of Lae. Unfortunately, the opposing supporters do not only differ in their

tribes. In the middle of the match, a young member of the Jika clan made the mistake of cheering too loudly for Lae, and found himself being beaten up by Hagen-supporting representatives of the Moge tribe. After Lac's victory, the light spread ooto the streets of Mt Hagen. By the end of the week, cars, coffee plantations and a dozen houses all over the province had been

destroyed. The tribal rivalries have been compli-

cated this month by elections to the Highlands local government. Like rugby teams, local politicians draw their support from tribal sources. For the villages, having a local man oo the council can make the difference between travelling to market oo a sealed road or a mud track, and as tribal flash points ballot boxes are as dangerous as rugby pitches. Io Mt Hageo tribal fightthe last two days, shots have been fired in

On the margins: A Yali boy of the Highlands plays at an initiation ritual. Tribal rivairies and growing economic expectations have pushed crime out of control Photograph: Chris Rainier, Where Masks Still Dance: New Guinea, published by Little.

the town either in warning by the police

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or in anger by political opponents. Complementing the danger of tribal fighting is the problem of "rascals", a pidgin term which can describe any wrong-doer from a pickpocket to a rapist or armed robber. White armoured cars bearing the names of private security companies glide about the streets of Mt Hagen, carrying the payrolls. The last bank hold-up was in August; by the law of averages another one is due soon. Every husiness in town has a uniformed security guard and steel mesh across its doors and windows.

Tribal fighting and the struggle for wealth and resources have been going on in the Highlands for centuries, but two things have combined to make their effects much worse. One is the rise in population longer tife expectancies and increased access to education have created an underclass of frustrated young men who drift into cities quite incapable of meeting their cconomic expectations. The second problem is weaponry. When the rules of tribal warfare were formulated, the weapons of choice were spears and bows and arrows. Today, the same people are fighting one another with pistols, shotguns and automatic rifles.

The range of hardware in circulation in PNG is daunting. Many of the firearms are handmade, crude arrangements of pipes, ball bearings and nails which are almost as likely to blow off the fingers of their owner as to blind his adversary. But crimes are also perpetrated with pump-action shot guns, self-loading rifles and even M-16s, A newspaper report last week hinted at the source of some of this weaponry. During an enquiry into an army mutiny in July it emerged that six AK-47 assault rifles and two rocket launchers have mysteriously

walked" from PNG Defence Force Stores. "The word rascal can mean a petty thief or a pickpocket, but the worst of these people are well-organised professional bank robbers," says Warwick Hatcher, manager of PNG's biggest security firm, Securimax. "A lot of them are ex-forces, weapontrained. Our armoured cars can stand up to an M-16 round from reasonably close up. ing forced the voting to be suspended. For But if they get their hands on one of those rocket launchers, then we're in trouble."



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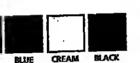


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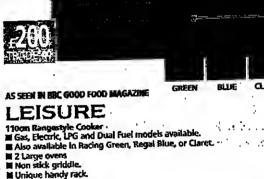
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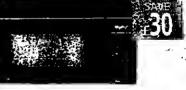
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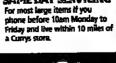
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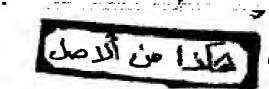
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15/RELIGION

Goodbye Hell, relio Huli

he Bishop of Hull has come to the reshe of the city which is forever fixed in the ational psyche as a place of terminal dulless. The Rt Rev James Jones yesterday urched a campaign designed to position ful nearer heaven than hell.

'he 17th-century vagabonds' prayer used by Taylor the Water poet - From ld, Hell and Halifax Good Lord deliver has been a thorn in the city's side for ulreds of years. During this period in hison beggars avoided Hull because they had it chance of getting anything without dag hard labour and anyone caught stling cloth was beheaded.

Research revealed that the city suffers fin an image "often perceived by outsiders a:ither negative or non-existent". Now, irmational branding consultants, Wolff (ns, have been hired to give a makeover t-Iull - or, to afford it its grandiose title, hgston-upon-Hull. A poster, which is part a multi-million pound programme of pro-ption, regeneration and education for the y. reads: "Goodbye 'Hell and Halifax' ... Il's moving on.

Unveiling the advertisement, the hishsaid he was "igniting the first few flicking flames of bope", adding that the impaign represented something "far seper than a flash-in-the-pan promotional ampaign to boost a few egos".

"We are kindling a beacon of pride and chievement which can become the envy of be nation ... There is so much in which we an be justly proud. We must harness the rity's unique spirit to improve our prospects and the quality of life for everyone." It is hoped that Halifax will remain "good Yorkshire neighbours". — Clore Garner

Good Book tales of rape, murder and luscious eroticism



Canon Michael Saward: The Bible 'leaves little doubt about the pleasures of loving and bonking

Photograph: Jason Bye

"Curves of thighs like jewels", "whispers like spiced wine" and "breasts like twin fawns of a gazeile". Whoever said the Bible was boring? A churchman tells Clare Gamer that it is full of "the pleasures of loving and bonking".

In between the Lord speaking to Moses and the walls of Jerusalem being rebuilt, there are plenty of juicy bits in the Bible. So says Canon Michael Saward, Canon Treasurer of St Paul's Cathedral.

With reference to the "luscious, erotic poem", the Song of Songs, which includes racy passages such as: "You are stately as a palm-tree. and your breasts are clusters of dates./ I said: 'I will climh up into the palm to grasp its fronds", he insists that most of the memorable bits of the Old Testament come into

the sex and violence category. of his sermons published today. Canon Saward writes that what first comes to people's minds about the Old Testament are the stories about what men and women do to and with each other. "Genesis has its fair share of rapes and murders. Exodus vividly describes the drowning of the Egyptian army in the Red

Sea. Later books tell of local tribes who were massacred in what, today, we call ethnic cleansing."

And as for sex, "There's plenty of that in the Bihle," he adds. The Song of Songs is "not only full of references to legs, thighs, breasts and so on, but includes a handful of coded allusions - common in Middle Eastern writing - to sexual intercourse. It leaves little doubt about the pleasures of loving and bonking there!

Canon Saward reports that a vicar's wife once told him that her elderly mother preferred the Old Testament to the New because, as she put it, there were more dirty hits in it. "How sad," he adds, "that she had equated sex with dirt."

Elsewhere in the book, Canon Saward, whose skull was fractured when he was attacked by intruders in the notorious Ealing Vicarage rape case of 1986, in which his daughter was raped, complains about press coverage of the Church.

"It only needs one unorthodox vicur to say something nutrageous In These Are The Facts, a book and every journalist will print his ravings. As a result, the nonchurch-going nation, and its politicians, assume that the Church spends all its time teaching heresy, political revolution or a moral ee-for-all.

"That is arrant nonsense but ... people still believe what they read in the newspapers."

American Jews are lost souls, says rabbi

An Israeli chief rabbi says millions of non-Orthodox Jews are lost souls. At the same time, moves to solve the row over conversions between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox in Israel have failed. Patrick Cockburn in Jerusalem examines the growing dispute dividing Israeli d American lews.

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His words seem calculated to mflame. Speaking about the socalled Who is a Jew struggle. Eliahy Bakshi-Doron, the Sephardi Chief Rabhi of Israel, in charge of Jews from the Midde East and North Africa. simply ruled out millions of Jews mainly in America, who heloig to the modernising

Reform tradition. le said that Reform Jews. who together with the non-Orthelox Conservative Jews, mae up 93 per cent of the 6 million American Jewish commuity, were "a one-way bridge in eneral to assimilation and reucing the Jewish people". Cnceding that Reform Jews nubered millions, the Chief

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were "millions of lost souls war". who have no future". He added: "A large part of their rabhis

don't even helieve in God." The denunciation of non-Orthodox Jews, who make up less than one per cent of the population in Israel, has politically important consequences because it comes in the middle of a row over the Orthodox religious monopoly in Israel. This centres on the right of Reform and Conservative Jews to convert non-Jews in Israei their right to sit on local religious councils.

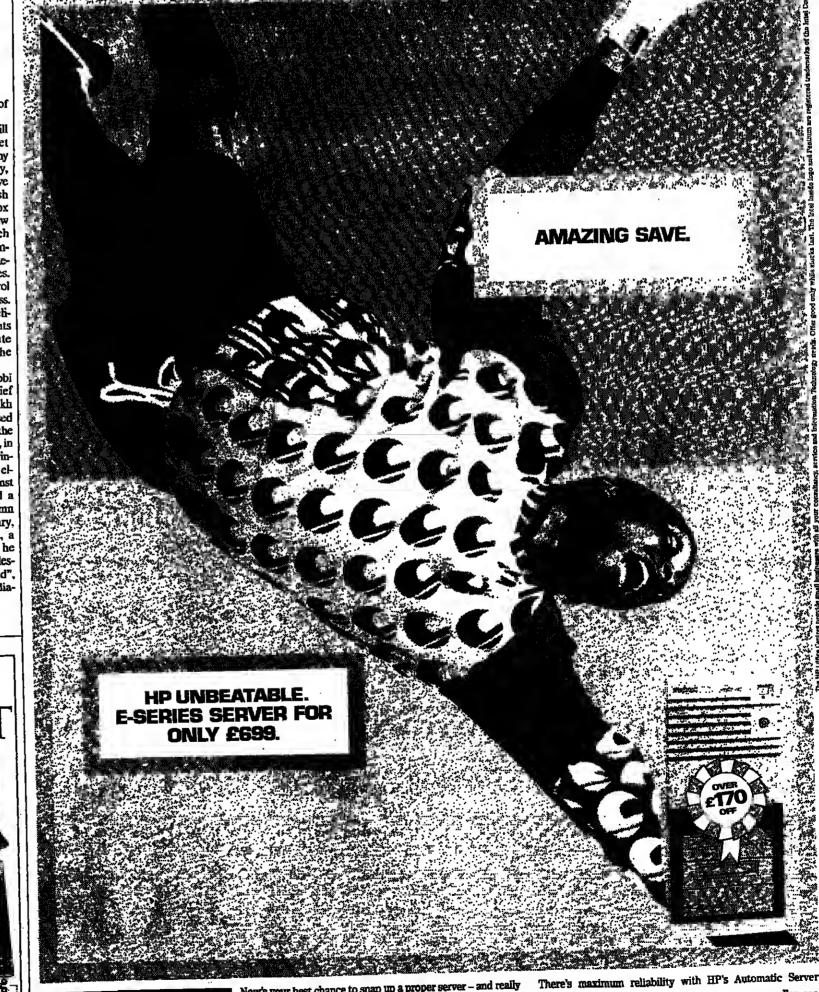
The religious parties, whose 23 seats make up a third of the government's 66-strong coalition, want to pass a law denying the Reform and Conservative Jews the right to do either. They say they were promised this by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and will bring down his government if he does not do

American Jews, whose political support is essential to Israel, find the suggestion that they are not Jewish enough deeply offensive. Rahbi Ehud Bandel, head of the Conservative Movement in Israel, says that the law, if passed, "will be interpreted in the eyes of logue with the sheikh.

Rabbi told Israeli TV that they US Jewry as a declaration of

The legislation probably will not pass through the Knesset (parliament) if it is opposed by the Russian immigrant party, some of whose supporters have had their claim to he Jewish challenged by the Orthodox rabbinate. But even if the law is rejected, the threat of such legislation has led to a sharp increase in political activity by Reform Jews in the United States. Last weekend they won control of the World Zionist Congress. This reverses a trend for religious and political militants from the right to dominate Jewish lohbying groups in the

Meanwhile, a settler rabbi has carried a plea from Chief Rabbi Bakshi-Doron to Sheikh Yassin, the recently released spiritual leader of Hamas, the Islamic militant organisation, in Gaza asking that "attacks on innocent people - women, the elderly and children - go against religion and are a sin and a crime and that he condemn these things". His emissary, Rahbi Menachem Froman, a West Bank settler who said he respects "the right of the Palestinians also to live in this land". said he hoped to open a dia-



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16/EUROPEAN NEWS



Helmut Kohl: Even the faithful cannot contemplate another term

Kohl signals the end of his reign with a TV decree naming heir

Putting an end to months of speculation, Germany's leader yesterday finally named his successor. Imre Karacs in Bonn reports on the announcement which heralds the dawn of the post-Kohl era.

The King has spoken. "My wish is that Wolfgang Schafible should one day become Federal Chancellor," pronounced Helmut Kohl during a television interview.

The party he has led to four successive victories will interpret that as a royal command. Never before has the 67-yearold leader of the Christian Democrats bestowed such an honour on anyone, although he had hinted Mr Schaüble was his favoured dauphin.

incumbent into a lame duck. But it has become apparent in the last of his 15-year reign that the party and the country want change. They would vote one last time for a chancellor named Helmut Kohl, but on the understanding that he would hand over to the younger generation during his last term. Even for the faithful, the thought of 20 years under Helmut Kohl seemed too horrible to contemplate.

Mr Schäuble, 55, fits the bill. He may lack the folksy qualities of his boss, but he enjoys a great deal of popularity, and is reputed to possess one of the sharpest intellects on the German political scene. He is a consumate deal-maker, blessed, unlike his boss, with an astounding eye for detail. Whether he also has a broader vision re-

quired in the top job is a subject of debate. The contrast between Mr Schäuble's vigour and Chancellor Kohl's depleting en-Mr Kohl had always been led by the ergy has become obvious of late. On Mon-

maxim that anointing a successor turns the day, Christian Democrat delegates attending their party's conference in Leipzig yawned through a lackinstre Kohi speech. A day later, they were on their feet, warmly applauding Mr Schäuble's electrifying analysis of the tasks ahead.

Mr Schäuble has filled the number-two post since 1991, becoming leader of the CDU/CSU parliamentary group after a miraculous recovery from an assassination attempt. The attack, by a deranged man, left him a paraplegic, confining him to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

The question deemed too distasteful to ask for a long time was finally posed by Stern magazine earlier this year. "Can a cripple run Germany?" screamed the cover. "I know I could actually do any job," was Mr Schäuble's firm reply.

Before his current assignment, he had served as interior minister, headed the chancellery and administered the national party organisation. What he has never many can is another matter.

done is work in the provinces; a point repeatedly made by opponents.

But he has been a loyal, competent supporter of Mr Kohl. He has taken flak for many cock-ups, but emerged unscathed. He is credited with drawing up the government's tax reform proposals, but escaped popular censure when they fizzled out this summer. Mr Schäuble appears to be as firm a believer in European integration and monetary union as the Chancellor. He fits the bill "son of Kohl" perfectly.

There is, of course, the little matter of elections to consider before the coronation. There are still 11 months before Germans go to the polls. Assuming a Kohl victory, the Chancellor's script foresees the introduction of the euro on 1 January 1999, the government's move to Berlin later that year, and then abdication in a blaze of glory. It is assumed that Mr Schaüble is patient enough to wait that long. Whether Ger-



Wolfgang Schaüble: Consumate deal-maker with an eye for detail

Solidarity coalition names new Prime Minister

Poland's Solidarity bloc and the smaller Freedom Union yesterday adopted a little-known academic, Jerzy Buzek, 57 (pictured right), as their choice for prime minister of a new centre-right coalition government. Solidarity beat the outgoing government of ex-communists in elections last month and therefore had a right to name the prime minister. Mr Buzek was top AWS policy adviser before the polls. He owes his rise entirely to the Solidarity bloc chief chief Mari-



an Krzaklewski, who plans to continue wielding power behind the scenes as head of the caucus he forged from dozens of centre and right-wing parties.

Swiss bank boycott attacked

The American ambassador to Switzerland attacked decisions by two US states to penalise leading Swiss banks for what is seen as failure to answer for their role in the Holocaust. The ambassador, Madeleine Kunin, said punitive measures were counterpructive. On Tuesday, California said it had stopped dealings with four Swiss financial institutions including Switzerland's three biggest banks, Swiss Bank Corp, Credit Suisse Group and Union Bank of Switzerland. Last Friday, New York City said it declined UBS's proposal to provide a letter of credit for a note sale because of the bank's handling of Holocaust issues.

Lorry drivers face roadblocks



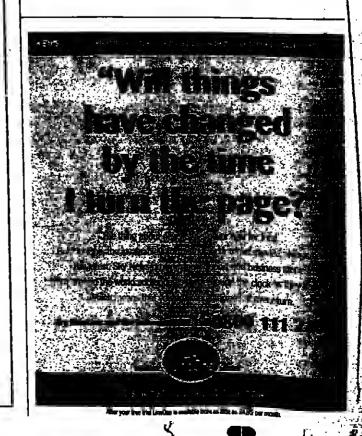
No go area: Blockaded lorries in France last year

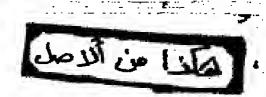
A year after the strikes that paralysed Continental motor lorry drivers are again facing a "winter of discontent", the Brish Road Haulage Association warned. Greek hauliers are polish to strike from Friday over proposed changes to heavy goods islation while French drivers have announced industrial act n starting 2 November unless demands on pay and conditions met. Talks between French haulage unions and the authorite continue, but the lorry drivers threaten a repeat of last year's ades if they break down. Neil Kinnock, European transport con missioner, has been meeting road haulage federations from Britai Ireland, Spain and other countries hit by last year's delays. Mo than 1,000 British firms have submitted claims but many will no qualify under French law. - Katherine Butler, Brusse

Insid

Yeltsin spared crucial vote

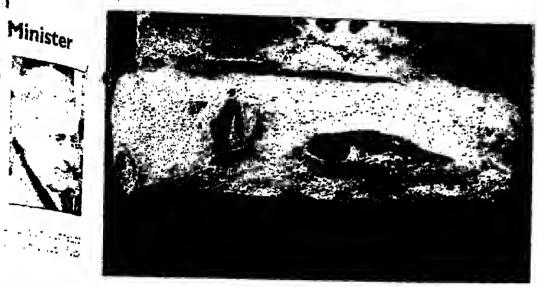
Russia's Communist-led lower house of parliament put off a no confidence vote in the government for a week after a dramati eleventh-hour appeal for compromise by President Boris Yeltsin The 450-member State Duma decided to delay the vote to allow time to consider Mr Yeltsin's unexpected intervention, tele phoned to the chamber after two hours of debate in which the government's economic reforms were lambasted.













In the roof of the basilica, a yawning gap exposes the concrete arch which was probably Giotto's nemesis; it made the building rigid and trauma-prone in a way the original wooden ones did not. And here are parts of the fresco brick by brick (top) a fallen cherub, (centre) an eye of St Francis. Above, restorers begin the task of sifting through the remnants of a masterpiece.



Inside the Assisi basilica, a sight to make saints weep

These are the first still photographs of Giotto's ceiling after the earthquake damage of three weeks ago. The question now is if and when we shall see it restored. The answer, as Andrew Gumbel reports, will depend on politics quite as couch as on

aftsmen's skill.

tt attacked

? roadblocks

They mumble in the back streets of Assisi that the receot earthquakes are a punishment from God for the venality of the Franciscan friars who oversee the religious buildings of the town. They mumble, too, about a long-standing curse on the great Basilica of St Francis – a monument far too grandiose and self-important, they say, to suit the tastes of the great patron of hu-

mility, nature and the poor.

Whatever the metaphysical reasons, the tangible evidence of the tremors of the past three weeks are stark indeed. Panels from two great masterpieces inside the Upper Church of the Basilica - Cimahue's Four Evangelists and The Doctors of the Latin Church, attributed to Giotto or his school - tumbled down from their brick vaults at either end of the church on September 26, killing four people, and further little pieces of the building have been crumhling with the successive aftershocks that have

Last week, the sympanum at the south transept began to crumble, and has since been shrouded in scaffolding to prevent it bringing a whole side of the church down.

Technical experts have begun surveying the roof of the whole edifice to, find ways to shore it up against further damage, but they have oot yet dared take a proper scout around the interior for fear of further

The future of one of the seminal buildings of the dawn of the Renaissance is thus caught in a terrible structural paradox the risk of further damage is so great that nobody has yet plucked up the courage to take the steps necessary to prevent it. Why should this calamity strike now, in our age of technology, wheo the Basilica had survived more than seven centuries in a notorious earthquake zone more or less unscathed?

One answer to that question can be gleaned by looking up through the hole created by the collapse of the Giotto panel. In the space between the roof and the decorated vault is the first of a series of concrete beams that date back from the 1960s. According to several art historians and technical experts, these alone may have been enough to make the difference between a few light cracks in the plasterwork and the disaster that has takeo place.

The Culture Ministry officials who made the decision to replace the old wooden beams with concrete more than 30 years ago defend themselves by saying they had to ascertain whether earthquakes or fire posed a greater risk to the Basilica; events, they concede with a shrug of the shoulders, have shown that they made the wrong decision.

But this is poor judgement of the kind that has dogged artwork up and down Italy in recent years. The Culture Ministry has, notoriously, been treated as a dumping-ground where politicians like to place rel-

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BRIAN HARRIS



Wheelbarrows of immortality: one full of fragments of Giotto, the other of Cimabue

atives and friends with little chance of finding a job elsewhere. The minority that feels genuinely passionate about Italy's artistic heritage is so abused and so badly paid, it is only occasionally that they get a chance

to wield their influence appropriately.

That, in turn, helps explain much of what has bappened at the Basilica since

Cording to size, colour and – in a few cases—clearly recognisable figurative chunks.

The face of San Rufino, for example, has

the first recent earthquake. There has been some sterling work, notably among the art restorers who have almost finished sifting through the rubble of the Giotto and painstakingly catalogued all the pieces according to size, colour and – in a few cases – clearly recognisable figurative chunks.

been almost completely recomposed and oow sits, in a dozeo fractured pieces, in a plastic tray filled with sand.

This has all been accomplished despite the uncommon difficulty of the task. The vaults inside the Upper Church were built with vertically-lined bricks, which means that when they caved io and the bricks separated, nothing came out more than a couple of inches wide. Normally, frescoes damaged in this way would be sifted by hand on the spot before being carried away. In this case, though, there were human bodies trapped underneath so the rubble was cleared away in great haste by mechanical diggers. "The plaster is fragile stuff and many of the pieces were inevitably ground to dust," explained the restoration supervisor Paola Passalacqua.

The restorers have had little or no help from the state, however. Ms Passalacqua works for the Culture Ministry office in nearby Perugia, but nearly all her team have been volunteers, energetically backed up by charity workers from a Floreotine religious order called the Misericordia. They have been working out of makeshift tents on the forecourt outside the entrance to the Upper Church without fanfare; the only comment they have attracted from the government official charged with the overall rescue of the Basilica, a former culture minister called Antonio Paolucci, was a snide remark about the need to get rid of "that pile of rubble" - rubble that just happens to contain the remnants of early Renaissance masters.

There is a long way to go still. The Giotto panel may be sifted and catalogued, but the Cimabue is still inside the church, shovelled into two columns by the diggers. Because of the precariousness of the building, nobody knows the full extent of damage to the fresco cycle of the life of St Francis, also by Giotto or his school, or to other key artworks such as a magnificent, if rather faded, Cimabue Crucifix. Aside from possible cracks, they are all covered in thick, grey masonry dust which is gradually eating into the paintwork. Bits are stilling falling down, with or without further tremors, although by now mattresses and blankets bave been put on the floor to try to keep them from pulverising.

tt is too early to say how much of the artworks can be salvaged; if things go well, it could be as much as 80 per cent. "At least there should be islands of decoration that can be joined together through restoration techniques," Ms Passalacqua said. But again, the dead hand of Italian officialdom could be a problem. Restorers say there are already signs of a power struggle between the local experts and the Central Restoration Institute in Rome. As officials scout around for a suitable location for recomposition of the recovered fresco pieces, companies in the private sector with good government contacts are stirring themselves to grab the potentially lucrative contract away from the genuine art

One curious irony is that those trouhlesome concrete beams might at last make themselves useful. Too scared to prop up the Upper Church from the inside, the technicians are now considering huilding a pontoon bridge between the roof and the vault and attaching grips to the top of the vault with epoxy resin. The whole structure would be suspended from the concrete beams. Not, one suspects, a use those Culture Ministry officials in the 1960s ever dreamed of.

Mr and Mrs David Helfgott are very much at home

David Helfgott is probably the most famous pianist in the world and his wife Gillian is the world's most famous pianist's wife, but not necessarily the most applauded. She is accused of many things, exploitation high among them. But when Ann Trenemon met them she found a couple comfortable with each other and a woman with shine.

Gillian Helfgott has been called formidahle, a controlling wife, a money-grubber. They say she has exploited her husband David - the extraordinary pianist whose story inspired the movie Shine - by encouraging a world tour that some critics have labelled a freak show.

"How could they do this to him?" asked ooe headline of David who has been known to add the odd floorish to Beethoven and often mutters and talks to the piano on stage. Undoubtedly there will he more of the same - both reviews and mutters - when he appears at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday. There may even be a repeating of the off-stage criticisms about Gillian's taste in shoes or the state of their private life. "They cannot seem to imagine that we have a sex life!" she says. "That is ridiculous. David is a very lovely and seosual man. I am more satisfied than most women!"

Her voice is loud and Australian and . the exasperated words float in the still air of the Athenaeum Hotel lounge like hrightly coloured bailoons. It is breakfasttime and I swear I can hear a collective pricking up of ears. Gillian probably does too and doesn't care one hit. After all, she has spent 14 years at the side of a man who creates a stir wherever he goes, There is no way you can be David Helfgott's wife and be the shy and retiring type.

"Hello, hello, bello. Got to smile, got to smile, got to smile," chatters David as he greets us with a clingy hug and a kind of O-shaped kiss that hangs for a very long time about a half inch away from the cheek. He does the same to the photographer and then tries to shake the hands of almost everyone else in the room. We then sit or, to be more precise, the rest of us sit while he vibrates and chatters.

The wordflow is incessant: if Gillian is talking, he parrots her phrases until he is centre-stage again. "The father was too domineering, too domineering, too domincering," he mutters. He often refers to his father, the man who ruined his life by being too possessive. Peter Helfgott refused to let David go to America to study at the age of 14 and later David would defy him by coming to Royal College of Music in London. But his act of rebellion may have also been his undoing: four months after giving a hrilliant concert at which he played the infamous Rakhmaninov's Coucerto No 3 he was admitted to a mental

He would be in and out of them for 12 more years and it was only after he met



Gillian in 1983 that his "nervous disorder" was controlled to any real extent. The story of his comeback is the subject for the Oscar-winning Shine and David is now on the last leg of the post-Shine tour. Back in the Athenaeum lounge, the

conversation has jumped from Polish composers to dreams to the "Rakh 3" which David is going to play on Monday. He is very good on facts - Gillian says he reads encyclopedias constantly and is a CNN junkie - hut often interrupts himself to request a piano, a Coke or a cup of coffee. "This nice gentleman is going to hring me a Diet Coke," he says to the passing waiter as Gillian shakes her head. confides that she has had to lock the Diet Coke, the tea bags and the bottle-opencr in the hotel safe. "Can you imagine!"

Not really, but then again one imagines a lot more after 10 minutes with David Helfgott than you ever thought possible. He asks for a piano again hat it is off limits for another half hour so that people can eat their hreakfast without the

accompaniment of the world's most popular concert pianist. He leaves anyway with a few words of advice. "Don't be addictive, be creative! Don't be greedos!" he says. (Other words from his own language include "potchnagoola" for kisses and "pleotchuous" as in plenty.)

Gillian and David Helfgott are serial optimists but it is clear that the attacks by some music critics over the Shine tour have upset them greatly. "It was terrible! They've said he's been exploited, that he is a puppet, only as good as a third-grade student, that he is a fraud," says Gillian. "Some of it was extremely painful. They were writing things that were so off the mark about David heing exploited. They all seemed to be acting as if we dragged him out of an institution. David is a 50year-old man and he makes up his own mind about things."

again and again, chewing over the words of this or that critic. She recounts in detail the opinion of a Miami critic who declared that if David kept playing with the same

joy and honesty then he had every right to be on the concert platform as a musician and not just as a phenomenon. She adds that sometimes David rectifies his playing after reading a constructive review. "As for freak show, well there have been very eccentric performers before. In America, they were calling Pavarotti a freak show this summer. At least David is in good company."

She says she is not defensive. "I know he is doing what he loves. I feel very privileged and I'm very proud. He really is shining on," she says. But a minute later she is defending his habit of muttering on stage. "David is not alone in that. It's terribly important not to crush individual and he is a Taurean with Gemini rising ~ artists. He takes risks. Horowitz used to get some dreadful reviews too. So did Chopin and Beethoven."

It is at this point that I start to like She returns to the theme of the reviews Gillian Helfgott because she obviously cares so much. "But aren't the critics missing the point?" she asks. "My question is: who is doing more for classical music in the world, the critics or David Helfgott?

"He's had standing ovarions around the wurld, even in Switzerland and France where they usually are fairly slow to stand up. And it's not just because of Shine. He was on tour for 10 years before that. He gets standing ovations because he is passionate about music, takes risks and hrings so much joy to the stage. He loves the piano. It's his life and he runs up to it like a child. There are no barriers with David. He read one review that said the night was a very sad occasion and he turned to me and said: 'Darling, how is four standing ovations a sad occasion?"

Gillian Helfgott used to be a professional astrologer - she is a triple Sagittarius and she helieves it was her destiny to be David's partner. "David is an extraordinary human being. I'm a good solid en-ergetic hackstop." She is 65 and he is 50 and she says that she doubts a younger woman could have dealt with the issues. "He needed somebody there 24 hours a day and he hadn't had that since his first marriage went wrong," she says.

"That really was a tragic relationship. It must have been pretty bad to want to stay in a mental institution rather than stay

with your wife." She has met his first wife,

Clara, once and has no desire to see her

again. The feeling, evidently, is mutual as

Admi

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10 Miles

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Gillian Helfgott is a professional astrologer and a sagacious optimist

who believes it her destiny to be

with David. Fifteen years his senior

at 65, she says maturity is a distinct

advantage when it comes to dealing

with a phenomenal husband and a

cynical band of critics.

Clara has said that David is being exploited. This really does seem rubbish from the simple vantage point that David clearlydoes know what he likes to do and that is to perform. Nor is there a shortage of people to go and see him. They say he louches the very spirit of the music and hundreds write in to say so. "I might just write another little book about touring and about healing," says Gillian, her eyes full of emotion. "It's extraordinary. David gives people such tremendous joy." We say goodbye (more hugs) and David, naturally, has the last word. "Awesome and vast, awesome and vast, awesome and vast." And for a moment, it seems exactly so.

All seats have been sold for David Helfgott's appearance at the Royal Albert Hall on Monday but gallery standing tickets at £12.50 each are available on 0171-589 8212

I'm not an irresponsible grandma, but I want the kids to have fun



DILEMMAS

Sandra's grandchildren are staying with her for a while when their parents are away, but her daughter-in-law has laid down stringent rules - no TV or sweets, bath twice a day, and a left-over punishment imposed on the boy. Sandra wants their time with her to be happy - can she break the rules?

VIRGINIA IRONSIDE

It's said that the reason grandparents and grandchildren get on so well is that they share a common enemy. This isn't always true, but sometimes grandpareots and grandchildren get a great kick out of hreaking the rules and having fun together in a way that the children never normally have with their parents. That special grandparent's role is, surely, to provide love, treats, trips to the funfair, chocolates and at least half an hour extra staying up time after bedtime.

My grandmother and I used to go on wild trips to Littlehampton when I was young and spend what seemed like vast sums of money at the local Butlin's funfair every night, going on every ride imagioahle, from the dodgems to the Big Dipper. For lunch we had plums and ices on the beach, donkey rides galore, jaunts on a miniature railway, games on the miniature golf ending up with a late and "grown-up" walk along the front looking at the winking lights before having a story before going to hed. It was wonderful. and taught me more about how an adult can enter a child's world than any number of odd concessions allowed by my par-

Sandra's natural granny instincts have heen hampered, however, by someune who sounds more like a concentration camp warder than a mother. And anyway, how dare this woman impose her rules on her mother-in-law's house?

Sandra could sail close to the wind. She could take the children swimming once a day to avoid the second bath; she could get videos out to watch on television or take them to the cinema; she could give them ices instead of sweets. And certainly she could refuse to carry out a punishment

meted out by the hoy's mother. Or she could secretly flout all the rules and swear the children to secrecy. I think a child could cope with this without being damaged too much. "This is our little secret," she could say as she takes them, and the television, up to bed at midnight.

I think it would be better, however, to wring her hands and say to her daughter in-law, as if apotogising for being clean out of sugar: "I'm terribly sorry hut we don't have any rules in this bouse except the few that I impose. Would you not trust me to look after the childreo in my own way? I assure you I will see they are safe and happy. And I'm sure it would do the children good if they were to learn that in other people's houses they have to obey other people's rules and go along with their way of life." If she really wants to lay the manipulative emotional blackmail on thick she could add, slyly: "I think it would be a useful learning process for them."

She could argue that few of us carry our own ways of life intu other people's houses like soails. Instead of slopping around in our dressing gowns over supper, picking at yesterday's old pasta with our fingers as we watch the telly, and mooching off to bed at ten o'clock in a sulk, we put on our best face, get dressed up, eat with knives and forks; we allow ourselves to have a good time - to eat and drink far more than we would at home. She could even imply that her set of rules are far more stringent than her daughterin-law's, only different, and there just wouldn't be room for two sets.

And keep quiet about the fact that one of her prime rules is that every child in her house has a thoroughly enjoyable, exciting and relaxing time.

WHAT READERS SAY

Don't detract from the enjoyment of the visit I think grandparents should

have some sort of idea as to how their grandchildren are being disciplined and try to keep some sort of continuity when they come to stay. At the same time "going to stay with grandma" can be a lovely experience simply because of certain treats or being allowed to stay up etc.

As a parent I think I was quite severe but, ye gods. Sandra's daughter-in-law sounds a positive dragon. If her regime is followed to the letter, the childreowill never be able to enjoy being with grandma as they should. So, as for sweets, television, computer and baths, just smile at daughter and murmur some sort of noo-committal agreement, then do what you feel is right after she's gone - one bath a day would seem a rea-

sonable compromise for a start! customed to changing sets of However, as for carrying on with Mummy's punishment for the boy. I would draw the line and say quietly and firmly, "No, absolutely not". Whether the punishment fits the crime is neither here nor there but, under no circumstances should you be expected to administer it. I would brook no argument on the matter, let daughter-intaw carry out her own punishmeots in her own house.

When in grandma's house, do as she says...

Ted Hooton, Cheursley, Bucks

Your reader should make it plain to her daughter-in-law that these are her children, her rules and gran respects them but it is grao's time and gran's house and, in this space and time, gran's rules apply. Tell her that children need to become ac-

rules eg at home and in school and that your rules will not differ so very much from hers. Ooce over this hurdle try to see what her problem realty is and whether she can get help! Lindsay Brewis

Relax: this is a holiday for the children too If Sandra's daughter-in-law is tu have a break why not let the chil-

dren have one too? She will relax far more with the knowledge that her children are being spoilt and treated as she can't possibly allow in her

own routines. By all means hand them over with one or two dietary "suggestions", but no more! Why put her loving parents-io-law in straitjackets with the children, when the alternative is to relax knowing they too will enjoy Francesca Weal

something different? Sandra, tell her there's no deal if the list comes too!

You can bend the rules

Mrs Frances Snuth

without flouting them Stick to her rules - it can be so tricky for parents otherwise - but be imaginative! No sweets? - let them help you cook scrummy cakes, puddings and hiscuits using quality ingredients. If "no sweets" means oo sugar at all, raid your cookery books for fun savouries. Restricted TV and computer? Take your grandchildren to the cinema and buy mega cartons of popeorn or crisps. Two haths? Take them swimming. But don't agree to the punishment: that's your daughter-in-law's job - the transgression happened in her home.

NEXT WEEK'S DILEMMA

for the last 10 years, which ment course at my local hospimeans I have had to give up my joh. I'm in daily pain and my life cope. has become very restricted. I cannot walk far or drive far or sit for long periods. I have had every kind of conventional and alter- other friends think I'm malinnative therapy so I don't want to gering, and that if I really want-

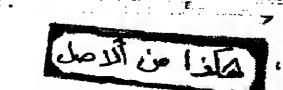
I have bad recurrent back pain even been on a Pain Manage- participate in social activities and who has a suggestion quoted will tal. And most of the time I can

But what I'm finding most dif-

take my problem more seriously? How do I convince them that ficult and hurtful is that a cou- I'm doing what I can? I don't

know of any new cures - I've ed to I could do more - such as Letters are welcome, und everyone to share, please let me know:

so on. What do I say so that they be sent a bouquet from Interflora Send comments to me at the Features Department, 'The Indepthis isn't "just backache" and that endent', I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL (fax ple of friends have told me that want pity; just understanding. 0171-293 282) by Tuesday morning. And if you have a dilemma of your own that you would like



Harold Robbins

Francis Kane (Harold Robbins), writer: born New York 21 May 1916; married Muriel Ling (died 1937). Lillian Machnivitz (marriage dissolved), Grace Palermo (two daughters; marriage dissolved), Jann Stapp; died Paim Springs 14 October

Greed for sex, money and power brought worldwide success and many millions of pounds to Harold Robbins. The greed was that of the larger-than-life characters in his 23 massive bestsellers, novels that created a "bedroom and boardroom" genre of popular fiction since developed by the likes of Judith Krantz, Jackie Collins, Danielle Steele and, on television, by the makers of Dallas. Dynasty and all their clones.

Robbins was indisputedly the most popular writer in the world, and his books - not one of which has ever been out of print - are said to have sold, in countries, three-quarters of a hillion copies. His most popular, The Carpetbaggers (1961), has sold 30 million copies, making it, apparently, the fourth most read book in history.

Robbins's life was almost as extraordinary as his success. When the millions started to roll in, he began to live the gandy life of the rich, raunchy characters in his novels, perhaps recognising, as an astute and entertain-

ing self-publicist, that this would help shift more books.

He lived a celebrity life of conspicuous consumption: a fleet of high-class cars in which several Rolls Royces were little more than runarounds; villas in the South of France, Acapulco and Beverley Hills; cruises around the Mediterranean on his 85ft yacht with guest lists that at various times included Hollywood film stars, globetrotting European jetsetters. Middle Eastern millionaires and high class hookers. He loudly proclaimed that he had researched first-hand all the vices he described in his novels; and that he would one day be recognised as the best

writer in the world. The arc of his success also read like something from his novels. He was born Francis Kane in 1916, in Hell's Kitchen, New York. A foundling (like his fellow best-seller James Michener) he was brought up first in a Roman Catholic orphanage then in a succession of foster homes. He took the name Ruhins from one foster family and changed it to Robbins when he began writing.

After dropping out of High School he worked during the Depression as a bookie's runner, errand boy and a clerk in a grocery store. In the grocery store he saw a way to make money from speculating on crop futures. He borrowed \$800, put his plan into operation and was a millionaire within a year. He was 20.

In 1939, on the eve of the Second World War, however, he lost the lot when he speculated that sugar would shortly become scarce and bought four shiploads at \$4.85 per 100 pounds just before the govcrament fixed the price of sugar at \$4.65.

Bankrupt, he went to work in 1940 as a clerk at the New York warehouse of Universal Pictures, Sharp with figures, by 1942 he had become executive director of budget and planning and he remained an executive with the film company until

He began writing in 1946, to win a bet after scorning the quality of the stories the studio was buying. His first two novels, Never Love A Stranger (1948) and The Dream Merchans (1949) were immediate successes and he even got critical praise (a rare commodity where a Harold Robbins novel was concerned) for his third, A Stone For Danny Fisher (1952), a coming of age novel set on New York's East Side,

Later all three novels became films - Danny Fisher was transplanted to New Orleans as Kid Creole, a vehicle for Elvis Presley whilst Never Love A Stranger provided an early role for Steve McQueen.

Other novels followed in the Fifties - "picaresque novels about doomed people", he ing a stroke and then a fall in

1961 publication of The Carpetbaggers (with a central character based on Howard Hughes) that Robbins's career really took off. The 16 novels which followed over the next 37 years Lincluding The Adventurers, 1966; The Betsy, 1971; The Stallion, 1996 and Tycoon, 1997) were snapped up by readers and film companies alike. Virtual-

or as television mini-series. In them he often used real life figures like Hughes, Aristotle Onassis, Marilyn Monroe and Lana Turner as templates for his central characters. "All my characters are real," he said once. They are written as fiction to protect the guilty." Readers loved the intricate plots, fast narrative, and what seemed like Rubbins's insider view of Hollywood, industry bigwigs and the super-sexed super-rich.

Robbins loved the life of the playboy, albeit one who produced a big book every couple of years. He did this by working 12 to 16 hour days, never rewriting nor working out his plots in advance. As he got wealthier, in addition to his glamorous lifestyle and outrageous parties, he got serious about art (he bought Chagalls amd Légers, Picasso sketched

him), fine food and gambling. His extravagant lifestyle came to an end in 1985 follow-

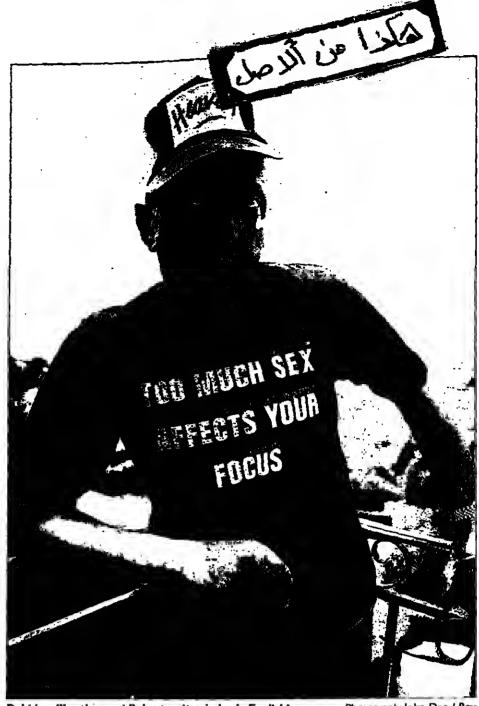
called them - but it was with the which he fractured both hips. Confined to a wheelchair he remained in his palazzo in Palm Springs for the nest of his life. He underwent a series of operations to repair his damaged hones, including one in which he suffered painful nerve damage. An attempt to implant an electric painkiller in his stomach failed and thereafter he took over-thecounter painkillers every day to ly all his novels have been alleviate the constant pain.

filmed for either the big screen He continued to type his books two fingered but now could only manage three or four hours a day. The wild spending, the divorces (he admitted to three wives but it seems there were three other brief, unpublicised marriages, two possibly to the same woman) and the medical bills put a big dent in his bank halance. The houses, the cars and the vacht went.

His marriage to his second (or fifth, depending on who is counting) wife, Grace Palermo. ended in divorce after 28 years in 1992. A week later, on Valentine's Day, he married his assistant, Jann Stapp, vowing it would be his last marriage.

He was writing almost to the end and had just completed another novel, Wishing Well. Of his writing he never had any doubts; "I'm the best around no one can compare with what I've done, I'm the world's best writer in basic English, Everybody understands what I write - except maybe the critics."

- Peter Guttridge



Robbins: "I'm the world's best writer in basic English"

Photograph; John Dee / Rex

Admiral of the Fleet Sir William Staveley

William Doveton Minet Staveley, naval officer: born 10 November 1928; Vice-Chief of Naval Staff 1980-82: KCB 1981, GCB 1984; Commander-in-Chief Fleet and Allied Commander-in-Chief, Channel and East Atlantic 1982-85; First Sea. Lord and Chief of Naval Staff 1985-89: First Principal Naval ADC to the Queen 1985-89; Chairman, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust 1991-97: married 1954 Bettina Shuter (one son, one daughter); died Sevenoaks, Kent 13 October 1997.

William Staveley joined the Royal Navy as a cadet in 1942 and retired in 1989 as Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord, in a conspicuously successful career which reflected Milton's comment about "virtuous Father, virtuous son". Staveley's father had retired as an Admiral; his maternal grandfather was Admiral of the Fleet Sir Doveton Sturdee, who had avenged Craddock's disastrous defeat at Coronel by inking von Spee's battle cruis-

ers off the Palklands in 1914. With such ancestry, William Staveley's career seemed inevitable in both pattern and achievement. It had a singularly promising start - an early appointment as Flag Lieutenant to the Commander-in-Chief Home Fleet, a tour of duty in the Royal Yacht and then two years as an officer at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, by whose standards even the young Staveley was outstanding. In all those appointments he impressed his seniors and his juniors, albeit in different ways, by his unflagging zeal, dedication to duty and determined purpose, growing more and more into the manner born.

He was promoted early to Commander at the age 32, and saw active service in command of a mine-sweeping squadron deployed as coastal patrol craft off Brunei in 1982 and Malaysia in 1983. His appointers did him well and he returned their compliments. A shore appointment at the Portland Training Base in Dorset, as Commander Sea Training, kept his hand and eye in, and then after command of the frigate Zulu he was promoted Captain in 1967, after barely seven years as Commander.

His next job was in the Naval Plans division, the first of several in Whitehall, but he was given two more seagoing appointments, commanding Intrepid, one of the two assault ships, and Albion, the commando carrier, before a second planning post, this time as Director of Naval Plans, led with apparent inevitability to the Flag List in 1977. His peers continued to observe his rather solitary path to further promotion - his efficiency seemed fantastic to some and almost depressing to others, hut it sustained him, unahated, throughout his career.

He flew his flag as Rear-Admiral Carriers and Amphihious Ships, by then the Navy's major conventional warships, which was his first experience of a coterminous Nato appointment, as Commander Carrier Strike Force Two. Then appointment as Chief of Staff

to Commander-in-Chief Fleet introduced him to the headquarters at Northwood.

Meanwhile he was promoted Vice-Admiral in 1980 and appointed Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff under Sir Henry Leach as Chief of the Naval Staff and First Sea Lord. Staveley was not to see service afloat again, though his service ashore was no less tur-

John Nott's lamentable defence review and of Command 8288, that fantastical White Paper. Staveley did well to help retrieve the situation, and the Falklands campaign was a fortunate onportunity for the Navy to demonstrate the need for a more realistic balance of capabilities than Nort had envisaged.

bulent. Those were the days of His heart must have leapt at the have to shed a nickname or an possibility of one more command afloat, but the task force needed only one flag officer at sea, and that a Rear-Admiral. Staveley was denied the opportunity to emulate Sturdee.

He was perhaps consoled in 1981 by being appointed KCB, though again many reflected

Commander-in-Chief and Allied Commander-in-Chief Channel and Eastern Atlantic. that unlike some, he did not With customary honesty, and irrespective of political popu-

> the number of small craft needed because of the Soviet threat. He succeeded Sir Henry Leach, with whom he had much in common, as First Sea Lord in 1985. No single or particular event characterised his time in office, and the culmination of his naval career may thus seem less memorable than others. But he fought forcefully and fruitfully in defence of the Navy's case for the resources it needed for its national and international tasks.

ways thought of as William by

most people. But he returned

to Northwood, as an Admiral,

larity, he urged on the Go

ernment his appreciation of

the Allies' serious deficiency in

He had more to do with the integration of the WRNS and the employment of women at sea than is generally realised. Partly because of a perceived manpower shortage but partly because of the notion of political correctness which was beginning to influence policies, the Navy had to go further and faster than Staveley thought right. He envisaged women serving affoat in due course, but thought it wiser that they should first serve in, perhaps, the Roy-

al Fleet Auxiliaries or the surveying ships, so that lessons affectionate diminutive to return to the formal given name might be studied before they that was required. He was alembarked in other warships.

He retired from the naval staff in 1989 in the rank of Admiral of the Fleet. He was no less energetic or dedicated and did much good work on many fronts. He was prominent in the NHS and particularly successful as Chairman of the Chatham Dockyard Histor where his role may in time be seen as equal in importance to that of Sturdee, in the preservation of HMS Victory. But the Royal Horticultural Society. Trinity House, English Heritage and the council of the University of Kent at Canterbury, the Kent Lieutenancy, his local Hunt and the Worshipful Company of Shipwrights all benefited from his energetic support, and his last years were as useful and as satisfying as those he had devoted to the Navy.

In retrospect, it is sad that he was one of the less approachable admirals and that as a more junior officer he did not relax enough to reveal more of the man and less of the officer. He never courted popularity and his chosen style did not attract it. But he might have carned more, especially if he had been able to unbutton what sense of humour he had. He was however a remarkably dedicated man who will be remembered with very great respect if, alas, with somewhat less affection.

A.B. Sainsbury

Unflagging zeal: Staveley at the Maritime Museum In 1980 when he became Vice-Chief of the Naval Staff, beside a portrait of his grandfather Sir Doveton Sturdee, who held the corresponding appointment in 1914 Photograph: Hulton Getty

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

FORREST: On 14 October, in Oxford, William George Grieve Forrest, Emeritus Wykeham Professor of Ancient History, Emeritus Fellow of Wadham and New College. Private cremation. Memorial party to be arranged. Memorial donations, if desired, to Sobell House Hospice. Churchill Hospital, Oxford OX3 7LJ. Churchill Hospital, Cajotti CA3 712.
MORKOT: Kathieen (French), at Exeter, on 12 October, aged 76 years, after two years' light against Parkinson's disease. Deeply loved by her children and family. Esteemed by all who knew her. Functal at St. Sampson's, Cricklade, Wittshire, at 12 o'clock on Thursday 23 October. Family (lowers only, but donations acranny masses only, out constitute ac-cepted. Further details from Le-Roy Funeral Service, 10 Alphington Road, St Thomas, Exeter, telephone 01392 255535.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memo-rial services, Wedding anniversaries, Memorism) should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London Eld 50L, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour 274 chine 9171-293 2012) or fatted to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a fine (VAT extra). OTHER Gazatte an nouncements (notices, functions faxed) and are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. They should be accompa-

Forthcoming marriages Mr P. S. Stocks

and Miss G. E. Standish The engagement is announced between Stuart, son of Mr and Mrs Barrie Stocks, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and Jill, daughter of Mr and Mrs Maurice Standish, of Littletborpe,

Birthdays

County Durham.

Mr Peter Bowles, actor, 61; Dr Stefan Buczacki, biologist, writer and broadcaster, 52; Mr Max Bygraves, singer, 75; Mr Paul Gallagher, trade-union leader, 53; Mr Paul Goggins MP, 44; Mr Gunter Grass, novelist, 70; Dr Walter Grave, Honorary Fellow, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, 96; Li-Gen Sir Robert Hayman-Joyce, Master General of the Ordnance, 57; Miss Angela Lansbury, actress, 72; Lord MacDonald of Gwaenysgor, former chief executive, Plessey, 82; Lord MacLehose of Beoch, former Governor of Hong Kong, 80; Mr Hugh MacMillan, for-

The Duke of Mark, Patron, attends a pinno recital and reception in aid of the Communication Soci-ety for the Deaf at St James's Palace. The Princess Barnil, Patron, British Executive Service Overcox,

Byon, Patron, British Esterated attends the Annual General Meating at the Innata London SWI: as President, Su London SWI: as President SWI: a

toinette (Josephe-Jeanne Mariedetention centre was opened at Borstal, Kent, 1902; Harold Wilson became prime minister, 1964. Today is the first day of the Feast of Taber-

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Fond, attends the 35th industry and Commenter Group Meeting followed by a Corporate Mens-hers Reception as Buckingham Palace; opens the best Reception as Buckingham Palace; opens the Changing of the Guard
The Household Creshy Mounted Regiment
tomus his Queen's Life Guard in Horse Courts,
Linux No 7 Company Coldstrates Guards moures

mer chief constable, Northern Constabulary, 65; The Most Rev Thomas Morris, former Roman Catholic Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, 83; Miss Emma Nicholson, former MP, 56; The Rev Dr John Polkinghorne, Fellow, Queens' College, Cambridge, 67; Mr Simon Ward, actor, 57; Mr John Whittisgdale MP, 38.

Anniversaries

Births: Oscar Fingall O'Flahertie Wills Wilde, playwright and writer, 1854; David Ben Gurion, Israeli statesman, 1886; Michael Collins, Irish leader, 1890, Deaths: Marie An-Antoinette), Queen of France, executed 1793; Moshe Dayan, Israeli general, 1981. On this day: the first nacies, and the Feast Day of St Anastasius of Chuny, St Bercharius, St Bertrand of Comminges, St Gall, St Gerard Majella, St Hedwig, St Lull, St Margaret-Mary, Saints Martinian and Maxima and St Mommolimus.

Hall, Lincoln's Irm, London WC1. Princess Mangaret, President, presides at the Amusal Cons-cil Meeting of the National Society for the Pro-tention of Cruelty to Children at the Society's National Tenintry Centre, Leiester. Princess Assumdar visits the United States in order to ta-dertake angagements in connection with the

LAW REPORT: 16 OCTOBER 1997

Jury can decide age of child in indecent photograph

In a prosecution for possessing an Indecent photograph of a child with a view to distribution contrary

to section I(I)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978, the judge did not need to direct the jury that they must find that the accused knew that the photograph depicted a person under 16; nor was it necessary, in the absence of direct evidence as to the child's age, for expert paediatric evidence to be adduced.

Regina v Land, Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) (Lord Justice Judge, Mr justice Poole and Judge Rant) 10 October 1997.

The Court of Appeal dismissed Michael Land's appeal against his conviction on 31 January 1997 at Lewes Crown Court of two counts of possessing indecent photographs of a child with a view to their being dis-

section 1(1)(c) of the Protec- direct evidence about the iden- they were in possession of or child for the purposes of the Act tion of Children Act 1978. He nity of any of the participants, did not appeal against his conviction of seven counts of having an obscene article for

The appellant and his partner ran a mail order business supplying obscene video tanes which depicted homosexual activity. Police raided his premises and found a large quantity of pornographic material, together with video machines and other equipment. James Wood (Registrar of Crimina) Appeals) for the appellant; Peter Walsh (Crown Prosecution Service)

publication for gain.

Lord Justice Judge said that the appeal concerned the appellant's conviction for possession of indecent photographs of a child in two video cassettes, in which young adolescent males were depicted in varied and indecent forms reason, or were ignorant of and tributed or shown contrary to of sexual activity. There was no had no reason to helieve that

nor of their ages.

The first ground of appeal was that the judge should have directed the jury that it was not enough, to establish an offence under section 1(1)(c) of the Protection of Children Act 1978, for a defendant to know that he possessed a photograph that was indecent: he had to know that the photograph depicted a person under 16. The object of the 1978 Act

was to protect children from exploitation and degradation. There was a statutory defence in section 1(4) which provided a framework protecting from conviction those whose possession of indecent photographs of children was not prurient. The defence was limited to persons who distributed or were either in possession of such material for a legitimate

distributing indecent material. The anxiety expressed by

counsel for the individual who did not know that the material depicted someone who was in fact a child was misplaced. A glance would quickly show whether the material was or might be depicting someone who was under 16 and if it was or might be then prosecution would be avoided by destroying or having nothing further to do with it.

The second ground of appeal was that in the absence of direct evidence of the age of the participants, expert paediatric evidence should have been called to enable the jury to be informed of the variations in the onset of puberty in different adolescent males, particularly with persons of different racial origins.

Section 2(3) of the 1978 Act underlined that the question would be dismissed.

was one of fact, based on inference, without need of formal proof. There was no basis for concluding that in the absence of paediatric or other expert evidence the jury was prevented from concluding that the indecent photograph depicted a boy or girl under the age of 16.

The purpose of expert evidence was to assist the court with information which was outside the normal experience and knowledge of the judge or jury. Perhaps the only certainty which applied to the problem in the present case was that each individual reached puberty in his or her own time. The jury was as well placed as an expert to assess any argument addressed to the question whether the prosecution had established that the person depicted in the photograph was under 16. The appeal

The Lords do not need reform - they need abolition



EDITOR: ANDREW MARK DEPUTY EDITOR: COLIN HUGHES. ADDRESS: I CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF. LONDON E14 5DL TELEPHONE: 017t 293 2000 OR 0171 345 2000 FAX: 0171 293 2435 OR 0171-345 2435

The Lords are back. This week the business . of the government of the country - the nation said by its prime minister in his Brighton peroration to be in such dire need of modernisation - is being debated in a chamber where flummery and feudal succession rule the day. Through this winter, important measures intended to prepare Britain for the 2000s will be carried through in a gilded chamber made up, mostly, of Tory has-beens and aristocratic holdovers whose principal recent contributions to public policy have been to seek to delay the sequestration of revolvers and the defence of

Let's have no nonsense about Bagehot and the dignified elements in the constitution. The House of Lords is an indefensible anachronism, Indeed, Bagehot himself once said that the best antidote to enthusiasm for the Lords was to go and watch it at work. And a little water has passed under Westminster Bridge since he said that. Too much water. Abolition of an hereditary second chamber is today the unduckable test of Labour's genuine commitment to changing this country for the better. Tony Blair declared that David Lloyd George was one of his 20th century beroes. Let's forget that the Welsh wizard ended up a shrunken effigy on the Lords' benches and remember him in 1909 and 1911 - a constitutional reformer of unparalleled energy, unafraid to pit people against the peers.

Yesterday the Labour leader in the

Lords (someone who, let's face it, never quite made it in the representative arena) was arguing for "streamlining" the ancient ceremonies of entry to this august chamher. He had a revolutionary proposal. The time it takes a new peer to be introduced should be cut. Novitiates stand, decked out in finery to doff their caps to the Lord Chancellor three times. (Read that and then ask why it is John Wells the satirist who shortly has a book coming out about the Lords.) The Lord Chancellor, you might think, has better things to do than sit around on a woolsack taking the pro forms greetings of people in ermine - he has a department to run, Cabinet committees to chair, a legal aid system to reform. But no, in modern Britain, Tudor ceremonial takes precedence over

It won't do to attempt to breathe a bit of new life into this constitutional corpse, as Labour has done with the creation of a few new (often female) peers. The House of Lords has to go and the sooner the Blair government hites that bullet, the sooner the shape of its first term of office will be settled and critical paths to its priorities for change identified (there ought, for example to be a clear relationship between the timing of electoral reform and replacement of Parliament's second chamber).

None of the arguments for reform are new. Equally, none of them have lost their urgency or sayour. It is not just that aristocracy is anachronistic as a principle for organising government. It's also that they are lesser beasts than before. If the House of Lords had a Burleigh or a Bacon, or a Salisbury or Macmillan, at least we could applaud their style and statecraft. This bunch are very pale, timid and marginal by comparison.

There are two positive arguments for reform. One is representativeness. A chamber with so few women, black people, people of the diversity that is modern Britain is unacceptable. It would not do as a parish council, let alone a governing assembly. If Mr Hague, who has been shilly shallying recently on Lords reform, does not see that follows from his new age tolerance he is no logician. Mr Blair, in turn, has to be persuaded that he cannot mandate such representativeness. It has to flow out of the process of election and democratic choice (and, yes, he will recognise there a pro-gramme for reform of political parties as well). The upper chamber has, in other words, to be an elected body. Labour's desire to move in stages, first removing the rights of bereditary peers, then turning the Lords into an organ of democracy, is too slow. There is a serious danger of never quite getting to the second stage.

The Lords, in short, cannot be democratised but there are versions of a second chamber of Parliament that might work well The second argument for reform rejects the idea that all political authority should reside in a single chamber, however brilliantly elected. Other jurisdictions, as diverse as Germany and the US, show how a second legislative chamber can include into the political process areas, groups and interests that might otherwise be excluded. The method of election and the exact role of a second chamber are for absorbing debate. But what is to stop Labour declaring its aim, now, and clearly? Not Lords "reform" but abolition. And then the creation of a new second chamber, elected on a reformed voting system but perhaps with longer tenure and specific, subordinate powers. It could even sit in that gilded place. And then, if he is any good, my Lord Cranborne can win a seat fair and square.

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number. Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

LETTERS

Gays and the law

Sir: The Independent has always been well to the fore in advocating gay law reform. It is, therefore, a matter of some concern that you believe that in civilian life the age of consent is "the last serious piece of legisladon that treats homosexuality as a lesser, shameful expression of human love" (Andrew Marr on the gay age of consent, 8 October). Nothing could be farther from the truth.

Section 28 of the Local Government Act 1988 should be repealed at the earliest opportunity. The current Sexual Offences Acts are riddled with anti-gay provisions.

It is not just the criminal law which needs reform. Under employment legislation there is nothing illegal about rejecting a job applicant on the grounds of sexuality. Unfair treatment of lesbians and gay men once in employment is not itself illegal. There is an urgent need for a Sexual Orientation Discrimiboth the Sex Discrimination Act and the Equal Pay Act.

And in the long run - probably ten years at least - there is the whole debate on gay marriages and domestic partnerships.

It was Lord Lester of Herne Hill who said last May, "The way in which a society treats unpopular minorities is a litmus test of the extent of its civilisation." We have still some way to go before the UK can claim to have passed that test. MARTIN BOWLEY QC President, the Bar Lesbian and Gay Group London WC1

Sir: The decision of the Government to oppose at the European Court the application of former servicemen for redress following dismissal from the armed forces on account of homosexuality is to be much regretted (report, 13 October). To deny citizens of this country the opportunity to defend it with their lives if necessary is a matter for shame. All the servicemen concerned had excellent records and in times of shortfall in recruiting it is absurd to

lose people of this quality. t served in the late Sixties in the RAF and narrow-minded people who bring up the "sharing the showers" argument are

many men who were gay and many who were straight and it made not the slightest difference when it came to doing the job - and the job in South Arabia in 1966/7 was awful. **GRAHAM YOUNG**

Sir. On 11 October vou reported that some Manchester gay clubs now have a door policy to turn away heterosexuals. I took this to mean that like most other clubs, they simply reject those they don't like, or who are not known to the door

Newbury, Berkshire

Now you tell us (14 October) that one of the advantages of being a woman is that you can hate football and not be called "homosexual".

Please stop the stereotyping. As a gay man with a beard who does not like lager or discos thereby ensuring my non-admittance to several Manches-

talking claptrap. There were terclubs for either or both sexes I am sure - I am also a lifelong supporter of Tottenham Hotspur. I must say that of all these things it is the last which causes me the most angst.

Battle of Heathrow

KEITH FLETT

London N17

Sir: Polly Toynbee's article (13th October) on the planning inquiry for Terminal 5 at Heathrow makes much of the environmental impact and the role of tourists but ignores business travellers.

I run a small consulting company designing theatre huildings. With a team of 35 people, we work internationally -43 countries in the last twenty years. We and our clients need good, frequent and reliable airline connections. We are not a wealthy mega-corporation with deep pockets.

Ms Toynbee argues that air

travel could be rationed, with the rich who wish to travel frequently buying more rations from the poor. That system is ludicrous in a business context.

ready penalised by high fares and ever-increasing taxes on travel. I personally travel over 300,000 miles per annum on husiness, a figure I long to reduce. Perhaps the more rapid introduction of video conferencing could reduce airline travel? DAVID T STAPLES London N8

Business travellers are al-

Sir: I have just had the misfortune to travel out and back into the country via Heathrow (letters, 15 October). What a desperate place! The traffic is colossal and the amount of time taken finding the longterm car park, waiting for a courtesy bus, being driven from one terminal to another is inordinate. On returning one has to suffer even more delay with

late landings after stacking over South-east England.

How is the construction of another terminal going tu improve matters? Better by far to develop some of our regional airports. Birmingham is a pleasure to go through. The facilities are not over-stretched and the staff are far less frayed.

How does one get the planners to drop their blinkers? Life does exist outside the South-**GEOFF WARREN**

Bodenham, Herefordshire

Forget the pound

Sir, Peter Johnson (letter, 14 October) need have no concern over whether a common currency could work in an area with large disparities of income, low mobility of the labour force and few arrangements for redistributing wealth. from the more to the less prosperous areas through a feder-

al tax and benefit system. Sterling has functioned as a common currency for many years in such an area - the UK.

SHAMELESS ONE.

THE BIRMINGHAM SIX

THE GUILDFORD FOUR

AND NOW

A THE

During the past fifty years the pound sterling has fallen from \$4 to \$1,60 and in the last thirty or so it has fallen from 12 to 2.8 against the German mark. Most of us would be delighted to be rid of it and have it replaced by a stable unit of European currency. It is very unlikely that any replacement currency would perform in the long term worse than the pound has done already.

DAVID J HUTCHINSON

Petersfield, Hampshire

Chislehurst, Kent

Sir: Chrysler has said it may withdraw from the UK if we do not join the single currency (report, 15 October). If we join will they undertake to sell at a "Euro" price, the same as that in uther countries? JONATHAN YOUENS

Sir: Foreign accent syndrome (Seen and Heard, 13 October) is one of the most puzzling communication disorders which may follow a stroke. You say there are only 12 documented cases; there are many more. Our helpline has received several inquiries.

Accent syndrome

The disorder is not a true "foreign accent" but results from changes to intonation and vowel quality. It is never identical with the accent concerned, hut mimics features of it.

Foreign accent syndrome may be one of the milder disorders of communication which can result from damage to the cerebral cortex. At the other end of the spectrum is total loss of language (aphasia) in which the person is unable to understand language. speak, read, write or gesture.

CHARLOTTE PAINTER Action for Dysphasic Adults

Chocs away!

Sir: As a British citizen living in America (and as a devoted chocaholic), I was intrigued to read (report, 11 October) about criticism from MEPs of British chocolate. Having been in England on holiday, I have just filled my suitcase with chocolates to take back to the States, for myself and my American friends who have requested favourites such as Cadbury's Fruit and Nut. Yorkie raisin and biscuit and Maltesers,

1

Many American friends agree that British chocolate is far superior to American chocolate such as Hersheys or Reeses. which is too sweet and is coated with a waxy substance to prevent melting, and far better than most European chocolate, 'especially Swiss or German, which is too sickly and sweet. One American friend pinpointed the very thing which the MEPs are criticising: the high milk content of British chocolate, which gives it a wonderful velvety lexture VICTORIA HRENCECIN

High and drive

Sir: Jackie Flaherty (letter. 13 October) asks whether cannabis impairs the ability to drive. Reports from the USA and the Netherlands suggest there is little to worry about. A report by the Washington Department of Motor Vehicles has stated: "Simulated driving scores for subjects experiencing a normal social 'high' and the same subjects under control conditions are not significantly different. However, there are significantly more errors for alcohol-intoxicated than for control subjects." ALUN BUFFRY Norwich

No help for it

Sir: I agree with Thomas Sntcliffe ("Burning in cyber hell", 13 October) that consulting "Help" in any computer programme is usually no help at all.

The 1

When I want to know how to get my computer to do something (or more often, stop doing something) I consult my 10-year-old son. He nearly always knows. Mind you, this is usually because what I want the computer to stop doing is something he has made it do HENRY WICKENS Luxembourg

Ever been chewed by the wildlife? You have? Then I'm afraid I've got some bad news



KINGTON

Yesterday I listed some of the ways in which we can usefully distinguish first-, secondand third-rate nations, and sat back, waiting for my erudite readership to supply me with enough further examples to form today's article. Not a single soul has volunteered to help. I realise, belatedly, that this is because their letters will not have reached me yet, so I will for the moment have to go on with the good work myself.

Here we go! A first-class nation issues small, dingy

postage stamps. A second-class nation issues colourful postage stamps depicting scenes from its own history.

A third-class nation issues flamboyant postage stamps depicting scenes from other people's history.

A first-class nation enters the Eurovision Song Contest fearfully, knowing that it

A second-class nation enters the Euro-

vision Song Contest fearfully, knowing that it might win yet again for the fourth year in a row.

A third-class nation enters the Eurovision Song Contest joyfully, knowing that, although it will not win, at least its judges (who are more glamorous than its singers) will be seen to vote.

A first-class nation produces coins which are heavy enough to toss without being hlown away. A second-class nation produces coins

whose chief value is to be taken away by tourists to operate public telephones and coffee dispensers in their own countries. A third-class nation produces coins which are so low in value that they are

rejected by shopkeepers even in the country of origin. A first-class nation has a national anthem

which sounds like a hymn. A second-class nation has a national anthem which sounds like a march.

A third-class nation has a national anthem which sounds like a folk dance.

A first-class nation has always con-

trived to eliminate all its must interesting wildlife some hundred years previously. A second-class nation has tried but failed to eliminate its wildlife, and is now turning it into a tourist attraction.

People in a third-class nation are from time to time eaten by their wildlife, and are very surprised when zoologists come along and stop them taking retaliatory measures. A first-class nation does not fear the possibility of a military take-over.

A second-class nation has had military take-overs in the past, but does not believe they will ever happen again.

A third-class nation does not fear the possibility of a civilian take-over. In a first-class nation a state of thinness is known as anorexia.

In a second-class nation a state of thinness is known as chic.

In a third-class nation a state of thinness is known as malnutrition.

All first-class nations claim to have invented television, the telephone, submarines, the photograph, etc.

All second-class nations claim to have a perfectly adequate television, telephone service, etc. operating for at least 1.2 hours

The communications systems of all third-class nations operate on gossip and rumour.

When a traffic light turns red and stays red in a first-class nation, motorists will wait for it to turn green for at least 10 minutes before realising it may have broken down and then very cautiously edge forward to see if anything is coming, and then even

more cautiously cross against the lights. When a traffic light turns red in a second-class nation, motorists will normally slow down out of respect and then cross without stopping.

There are no traffic lights in third-class countries except outside the presidential

There are no presidential palaces in firstclass nations except in Washington DC. Only second-class nations still retain monarchies.

Only third-class nations name streets after days in history.

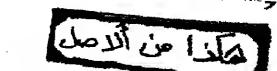
All first-class nations play games which are played by no other nation in the world, except their former colonies.

All second-class nations have at least one boxing world title hopeful. All third-class nations enter teams for

the Olympics, no matter how hopeless, because they once won a weight-lifting: medal.

In first-class nations, punctuality is a In second-class nations, it is an

affectation. In third-class nations, it is a waste of time."



A new beginning is the way to cure a false start



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POLLY TOYNBEE CHILD SUPPORT AGENCY

Labour's worst inheritance was the stricken Child Support Agency, Now, trying again to make this misbegotten beast work, the CSA is undergoing another upheaval. This is the last chance to kick-start this hunk of bureaucratic wreckage into life. A fundamental review is in prugress - a chance to write off the agency's disastrous past and start all over again.

That means the CSA will almost certainly write uff a large number of the backlog of cases that still hang round its neck, dragging down its statistics. New cases may be doing better, but while the old ones lie in yellowing stacks, the agency will always be counted a disaster. Politically, Labour could write off Tory mistakes from the agency's bungled launch. The National Audit Office was so outraged by the CSA's figures this year that they refused to accept its accounts, complaining that eight in ten cases contained mistakes, mainly due to the old cases.

News of an amnesty will no doubt strengthen the determination of all those non-paying absent fathers to sit tight. The fathers' Internet weh site will huzz with vet more advice on ways to avoid paying. Glorying in their mass rebellion, the fathers know that any bureaucracy collapses if enough people refuse to comply.

It will be a hitter day if the CSA does again have to write off thousands more cases, letting so many shameless fathers off the hook. But any non-paying men who read this should know that the agency will only abandon old cases where the mother herself has refused to co-operate. Where mothers want the agency to chase fathers for maintenance, the CSA will plod on.

How has it reached such a state? Only 31 per cent of fathers who have been assessed actually pay the full amount. Another third pay absolutely nothing at all, while the rest have paid something but not the full amount. Getting money out of fathers is harder than extracting an apology from the Tory ministers who ignored all advice when they set the

CSA up. But what now really alarms ministers is the increasing number of women who are refusing to co-operate. Over half of all mothers are refusing to fill out forms, or otherwise using loopholes in the system saying they fear violence, or a more loosely defined "harm" if they proceed with a claim for maintenance. The whole thing was set up to help women, yet now they too are turning their back on it. If even the mothers won't help, then the agency really will be brought to its knees. That's why Labour has just this one chance to change public opinion, to get the moth-

ers onto their side and finally force fathers Winning back the women is the name of

the game, but it will be hard work. As it is, mothers on benefit think the CSA is all hissle and no extra money. Those mothers who do already get something sometimes from the fathers, however little, rightly reckon they're probably better off with what they've got. If they antagonise such a father by setting the CSA on him, he will stop what he gives now and the CSA will probably fail to get anything else out of him instead.

That is an entirely rational calculation, one that the fathers' movement has been vigorously encouraging, telling men to give a hit under the counter illegally to their ex-partners on social security, so women fear losing that fittle something if they ever declare it to the CSA. The men coerce their ex-partners, and the women collude because they rightly doubt that the CSA will do any better.

The CSA review is likely to recommend that wnmen should be offered an incentive to co-operate. At the moment mothers nn benefit are not allowed to keep a penny of any maintenance paid to them. Women are expected to go through all the aggro of chas-ing up the father, filling out the forms, suffering his fury and re-opening old rows without gaining anything for themselves and their children. The Treasury frowns on the idea, calling it a hribe for complying with the law. But they'll never win over the mothers without that bribe, so they'd better pay up.

There are other ways the CSA can prove itself a friend to mothers. For those in work on Family Credit, the CSA could take away the risk that a mother's maintenance might just stop, by paying It themselves and then recouping it from the father.

The agency hopes to win back women by explaining the system to them better, with personal advisors visiting mothers in their own homes. The success of the New Deal pilot schemes for single mothers suggests that lone mothers know very little about how the benefit system works. Once a personal adviser explains to them how much difference maintenance can make to their future income if they ever want a job, many more may cooperate eagerly-so long as these visitors feel like a friend not a menacing threat. The family credit system is fiendishly incomprehensible Housing benefit and then the CSA forms are yet two more layers of bureaucracy from different offices, so having a personal adviser may at last give the CSA the human face it has always lacked. Until now women have complained that access to the CSA has been via anonymous help lines, long delays. and people the other end who don't ever have the right answer.

First, though, the CSA has to persuade women that they really will collect the money. They need headlines showing how well they are doing - and the only way they can do that is by shedding the dead weight of dead duck cases this Government has in-

This is the last chance to save the CSA and it may not work. The new reorganisation is to move its headquarters near to the Benefits Agency from whence it first emerged. As welfare-to-work merges benefits, employment and maintenance claims under one personal adviser, then we may hear less of the CSA as a distinct entity.

Most people agree that fathers should pay for their children and the tax-payer should not be left to pick up the bill. Had the Tories heeded advice and introduced the CSA slowly, it would have worked with great popular support. This is one last chance to rescue its battered reputation -- but now it must persuade mothers that it really can work, as an ally, not an enemy.



Tony Blair addresses his new MPs Photograph:

Our new MPs: young, but more interested in trivia than rebellion

Sometimes the reforming spirit breaks out in the unlikeliest of quarters. Yesterday Lord Richard, leader of the House of Lords, confirmed that he was planning to modernise the Tudor ceremony through which new members are introduced to his chamber. The antiquated I1-minute ritual in which peers take their places then stand, doff their caps to the Lord Chancellor, and sit three times is to he speeded up in order to cope with a spate of ennohlements, he said.

This move is pure pragmatism, of course. "I think I am entitled to some celerity in the way my troops get in. It's not unreasonable," Lord Richard said yesterday.

But elsewhere in the Palace of Westminster, the story is quite different. Just three months after the wind of change began blowing through the House of Commons, the dust is beginning to settle once

As MPs pack their trunks and prepare to return for their Autumn term, a survey has revealed that the new guard elected in May are barely more keen on modernising the place than their predecessors. In the heady days after the election, it really seemed that renewal was on the cards. With 250 new members out of a total of 660, everyone was sure that the stuffy, Victorian procedures of Parliament would be swept away.

Above all, there would be outright rebellion against the gang warfare which is British politics. Now in the presence of normally-functioning adults, the schoolboy humorists would be too embarrassed to continue the catcalls and whoops

that too often pass for Commons dehate, and would desist. Change will not come so eas-

ily. This week the parliamentary House Magazine printed the results of a survey conducted among 192 of the 253 new members. There was no shortage of complaints about Parliament and its ways, but the picture that emerged did not suggest the existence of a great, radical, reforming movement,

Almost half the new MPs disliked some aspect of the procedures of the Commons, hut only three had a problem with the adversarial nature of the debates. Far more were worried about the size of their

about the "museum-like atmosphere" of the Commons slightly less than the number who listed the historical feel of the place as a plus point. More MPs were worried about the lack door has slammed shut and the of space, though, and one in seven felt the need to point out that there was too much paperwork.

The "incomprehensible" order paper, the amount of time spent hanging around waiting for late-night votes and even one MP's need for "an office with a window, please" featured in the replies. On the plus side. there was the excellent library. helpful staff and good food. (This last, presumably, was from the 15 per cent who worked as teachers or lecturers and therefore became used to school dinners.)

Calls for a new style of polities did not ring out. Nor did the need for MPs to hold the Government to account or to act independently. No-one expects newly-elected Labour MPs to feel it is time vet to haul their own masters over the

coals for their mistakes, but it is striking that almost two thirds' nf them put "advancing the party cause" on their lists of their three most important roles. One even admitted that getting promoted to the front bench was his chief aim in life,

Just one in 10 complained ABRAMS

HOUSE OF COMMONS REFORM

Loyalty and compliance are the order of the day, and both those who put "being independent minded" at the top of their lists were Conservatives.

Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby fur the past 20 years, carried out the survey with Professor Philip Norton from the University of Hull. He said the new intake seemed to see themselves as party people rather than as Parliamentarians. Diligent and committed they may be, but radical they are not. "I turn away both depressed and admiring," he said. "I had high hopes that there was bound to be a tide of change because peopte would come in and want to improve things. Evidently, not. I think it's the facts of political life. They have been

very well organised for campaigning purposes and they haven't really been introduced to Parliament yet."

Talk to any new MP on this subject and you are almost certain to receive a barrage of ideas on how Parliament could be improved. The problem is, most of them are too husy to do much about it.

Jane Griffiths, Lahour member for Reading East, is typical. There was no point in jumping in with both feet to demand change during those first weeks after the election, she sald. But her first impression of "some sort of Victorian music hall", had persisted. She worries that some of her colleagues will become institutionalised and will stop worrying about change once they have learned to use the House's labyrinthine

It is time the place was opened up, she added. Just this week she brought in a party of 10 elderly constituents, two of them in wheelchairs, only to find the rules prevented her from taking more than three at unce into the tea room, even in the quiet of the recess.

Jenny Tonge, Liberal Demoerat member for Richmond Park, has nicknamed the House, with its gothic architecture and gloomy oil paintings, "Dracula's Castle."

She told a story she heard about the top hat that members

must wear if they want to make a point of order. A few years ago, apparently, there were complaints that this procedure was ridiculous and antiquated, and that it caused several minutes' delay in the chamber while the hat was fetched from its place at one end of the room. So a Commons committee had a think, and came up with a solution. They bought an extra hat

for the other end of the room. Tea rooms? Oil paintings? Hats? Austin Mitchell's survey was clearly right. Asked what they want to change about the House, the new MPs will come up with a raft of trivia.

The truth is that all these small irritations go together to make up a whole that is cumhrous, needlessly confrontational and laughably remote from real life in the 20th Century. The really remarkable thing about the place is that anything is ever achieved there at all.

There is a tide of change in the Commons, but it is not flowing strongly enough to sweep the establishment along before it. Not surprisingly, the new members are getting on with their jobs. They do want to work in a proper, modern Parliament hut they also want to help their constituents and to hold on to their seats for a second term. If anything is really going to change, it looks as if the old guard are going to have to do

The participants, at least, were enjoying themselves

nded in last



TAYLOR CHELTENHAM DIARY

A recently liberated Edwina Currie arrived at the Cheltenham Festival gagging for it. There was nothing in the hotel that would suffice, she told an intrigued John Walsh, this year's festival director.

Ever accommodating, the hotel management sheepishly suggested room service and a young boy was duly dispatched to fulfil the great one's needs - a double cheeseburger and large fries, harriedly bought from the High Street.

Suitably satisfied, she gleefully set off to lecture the good ladies and gentleman of Cheltenham on the excitement of her life thus far, She showed them a couple of recent purchases, one a newly printed Tshirt proclaiming: "I'm the best there is, but I'm not available." A revelation that caused a

huge sigh of relief from the single men in the audience who feared it may have been a Kiss Me Quick Hat. A piece of promotional attire,

that the broadcaster Sarah Kennedy was unlikely to need for a while. For Sarah, here to spread the word about her first novel, has nabbed a toy-boy. "It's wonderful," she boasted. "Even though I'm nearly 140. he's only 31 and quite unlike the other men I have known who are all in their forties. He's so sensitive and caring. I highly recommend it." The Cheltenham ladies discretely made

If Ms Currie had arrived earlier her ex-school teacher sensibility could have come in extremely handy for the job of minder for the slightly more colourful members of the Irish Poets Society. As it was, that job was foisted on to John Wyse Jackson, an Irish writer here to publicise his much respected

book on James Joyce's father. With Aiden Higgins in one hand and Dermot Healey in the other, he valiantly trolled them around Cheltenham's finest bars and public houses. A sad literary establishment at a works of the great and the



Booker winner Arundhati Roy Rellanduini

quite authentic enough. Fruit machines, unforgivable. Loud music, see fruit machines. Guinness at not quite the right temperature; and a severe lack of Cheltenham young ladies on to whom they could pour their poetic attentions was the final straw. Desperate, John tentatively suggested they join the more sedate members of the

business. None of them were delightful wine and nibhles party being thrown at one of the most civilised residencies in

They were finally persuaded when John murmured that this house had often played host to none other than the Nobel Prize winner, Seamus Heaney. "Yer man," they both

chimed and off they set. In a library stacked with the

good, the lyrical duo settled in for the night. Aiden, ever the aesthetc. nested comfortably into the chair that Seamus used to sit in while Dermot went off in search of larger prey - the young daughter of the hostess.

He was last seen manoeuvring her out on to the patio and inquiring: "Where's the fooking Guinness?" A clarion call be was to repeat each time the South African red moved his way.

The following day rain and bad light fell on the Gloucestershire town heralding the arrival of the nation's favourite umpire, Harold Dickie Bird. He was joined by the accomplished painter and England wicket keeper Jack Russell - who, as one Festival-goer confided in me, is rumoured to be planning to have his hands amoutated when he dies and donated to the Lords museum.

Dickie confessed that he was on a bit of a sticky wicket with fellow Yorkshireman Geoffrey Boycott. In his recent autobiography, the purpose of his trip down south, Dickie names what he considers to be his dream 11. And our Geoff isn't on it. The world's most famous finger told us that he has received a message saying, "I want a word with you Dickie announced "The Empire Bird. I'm not happy."

But Geoff will be pleased to know that although he wasn't on the dream team, if his life depended on it and he had to select a batsman to save him from being shoved off his mortal coil, Dickie would have no hesitation in selecting Geoff. Who, Dickie added, would be at home right now, counting his money and watching videos of

By the time that news had reached Cheltenham of Arundhati Roy's Booker win she was probably at home doing exactly the same thing, having left the Festival that morning. Her fellow contemporary Indian writers meanwhile were out in the Festival bar celebrating hers and their own personal victories. Some, more than The writer of Looking

Through The Glass, Mukul Kesavan, looked into the bookies and pocketed £150 while Urvashi Butalia, the Carmen Callil of India, who had earlier defended her views on the débacle of Partition and the extremities of the Empire in a debate entitled End Of Empire. was ecstatic. Projecting into the room like a woman who had just pocketed the bonus ball. she threw her fist in the air and Strikes Back."



The EMU factor: Toyota rules out second UK car plant as Vauxhall says sites are safe

Toyota has ruled out building its second European car plant in Britain, partly because the pound is unlikely to be in the first wave of monetary union. But Vauxhall denied it would shift production abroad if the UK failed to enter a single currency. Michael Harrison assesses the mood in industry towards EMU.

The Japanese car giant, Toyota, has abandoned the option of building another assembly line at its Burnaston plant in Derbyshire to manufacture a third model. An announcement on where the £600m investment will be located is due to be made in the new year with France now the clear

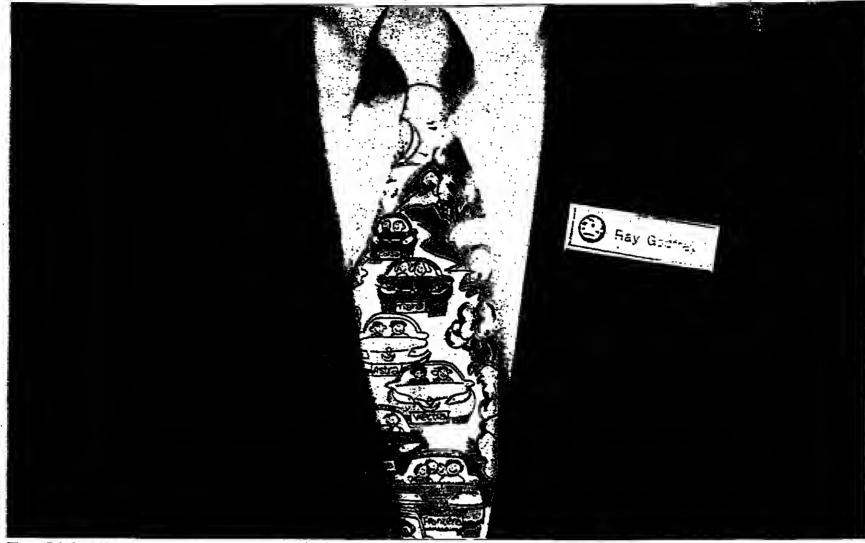
The decision to locate the plant on the Continent is based partly on the near certainty that Britain will not be in the first wave of EMU. But it is also linked to Tovota's production schedules. The new model, a small Starlet-sized car, is due to go on sale in two years and its biggest markets will he France and Italy.

A Toyota executive said: "It is very unlikely to be Burnaston. The car in question has to be on sale in 1999 and manufacturing it in Britain would not help our European supply strategy. But inevitably EMU is one of the other factors."

Toyota is among a number of large inward investors to have warned that investment decisions could be affected if Britain stays outside the "euro-zone". BMW, which now owns Rover, has said that exports and component orders worth billions of pounds will be hit if EMU goes ahead without Britain.

Siemens of Germany, which has invested more than £1bn in a semiconductor plant in the North-east, is preparing to tell component suppliers they will have to bill it and be paid in euros. The company is one of the most vocal supporters of monetary union and its chief executive, Jurgen Gehrels, is on record as saying it might have made a different investment decision had it known Britain would be so cautious towards EMU.

Nick Reilly, Vauxhall's chairman, said



Ties to Britain: A Vauxhall representative at the Motor Show at Earls Court, London yesterday. Vauxhall has denied threatening to shut UK plants Photograph: Rui Xavier

Motors, that Britain would pursue sound economic policies. But he refuted reports, based on com-

ments by GM's chief economist, Mustafa Port and Luton car plants and shift production to the Continent if the Government failed to enter the single currency.

In a radio interview with the BBC's Financial World Tonight, Mr Mohatarem said: "A lot of manufacturing jobs that are

assurance to its parent company, General joining EMU." Asked if Vauxhall would had just completed a £300m investment in Industry announced in July that it supported produce vehicles elsewhere in Europe if Britain failed to enter he said: "For the European market, yes, given the choice."

Yesterday Vauxhall and GM were furi-Mohatarem, that it would shut its Ellesmere ously back-pedalling. Mr Reilly said: "A statement by a GM representative which indicated conceptual support for the UK entering into the EMU was misinterpreted to imply that GM would withdraw from the UK if the UK did not go into EMU."

yesterday that joining EMU would provide tied to sales in Europe are tied to Britain a significant investor here since 1925 and

the new Astra at its Ellesmere Port plant on Merseyside. "That is evidence that GM mtends to remain a significant producer in the years to come," he said,

There is no doubt, however, that the vast majority of big businesses favour early entry into a single currency and are building up pressure on the Government to make such a commitment encouraged by signs that the Cabinet is shifting to a pro-EMU On the contrary, be said GM had been position. After a four-month consultation with members, the Confederation of British

EMU membership when the conditions were right. Last month, the CBI's director general, Adair Turner, reinforced this, aying that it would favour a clear statement from the Government in favour of the principle of joining EMU.

its position on EMU by the end of the year hut has always said a decision on whether to enter and when would be based on the economic merits, not political considerations.

GTE on brink of launching bid for MCI

British Telecom's remaining hopes of completing its merger with MCI, the US long-distance giant, looked to have evaporated last night when a second rival bidder, GTE, apparently threw its hat into the bidding ring. Chris Godsmark, **Business Correspondent,** examines the latest blow to BT's international ambitions.

A bidding war was fast developing for MCI last night as GTE, one of the largest phone companies in the US, looked set to launch a \$27bn (£17bn) all-cash offer for the company. MCI shares were suspended as traders waited for GTE to confirm or deny that it was about to strike with a new bid, priced below the surprise \$30bn offer launched this month by WorldCom. GTE's shares were also suspended.

Though the precise scale of GTE's potential offer was unclear, it was expected to value MCI shares at up to \$38, below the \$41.50 price of WorldCom's approach. The fact that GTE was apparently prepared. to pay MCI sharebolders entirely in cash would almost certainly scupper the bids by BT and WorldCom.

WorldCom was offering to pay MCI shareholders entirely in shares, while BT's revised offer was a mixture of cash and shares. MCI's board has been considering WorldCom's approach, but was expected to take several more days before deciding whether to recommend it to sbarebolders.

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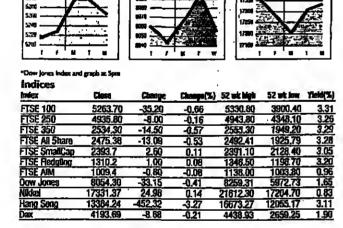
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BT executives declined to comment. "We've heard the rumours but until such time as GTE launch a formal bid we can't say anything," said a spokesman.

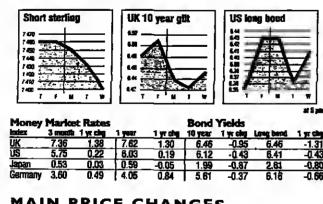
Jim Ross, a telecommunications analyst with stockbrokers Hoare Govett, said; "This certainly makes things much more complex for BT because they've told their shareholders MCI is worth much less than

However there was speculation last The Government is expected to set out night that a hid by GTE, based in Stamford, Connecticut, could work to BT's advantage. GTE is almost four times the size of WorldCom in terms of its sales and analysts suggested it could make a better US partner for BT.

STOCK MARKETS



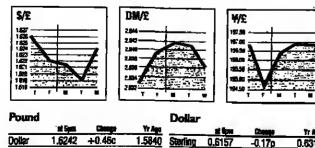
INTEREST RATES



MAIN PRICE CHANGES

Rises	Price (p)	Che (s)	% Charge	Falls	Price (p)	Chg (p)	% Chọc
Peel Hidgs	727.50	80.00	8.99	Berkeley G	693.00	-35.50	-4.80
Hambros	244.50	11.00	4.93	Tarmac	121.50	-6.00	-4.31
Wessex W	517,50	22.00	4.44	Brit Blotech	115.00	-5.00	-4.17
Capita Gr	290.50	11.00	3.58	North Foods	233.5	-8.5	-3.51

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WH Smith board considers revised proposals from Waterstone

The WH Smith board met yesterday to discuss the revised restructuring proposals of Tim

Waterstone, the bookselling

entrepreneur. The new terms involve lower debt levels and reduced bankers' fees, while the existing chief executive would remain in place. Nigel Cope, City Correspondent, reports.

The details of Mr Waterstone's revised proposals were issued by WH Smith yesterday after it was forced to make a statement by the Takeover Panel which now deems the struggling retailer to be in a takeover situation.

However, the terms included a clause which stated that the proposals would proceed only if recommended by the WH Smith board. This leaves the door open to the Waterstone team to launch a bid for the

group if the Smithboard decides to snuh Mr Waterstone a sec-

Nick Bubb, an analyst with Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, said: "It is a better set of proposals but it still looks a long shot that it will get the board's well go over their heads to the cent. shareholders."

Mr Bubh said it was possihle that a hostile bid could prove successful

WH Smith executives will meet some of its institutional shareholders today and tomorrow amid growing feelings that the Waterstone proposals should be put to all sharebolders. Some believe that it would be arrogant of the board to reject the proposals ahead nf the group's annual meeting

next Wednesday. The terms of the Waterstone proposals were put to Jeremy Hardie, the WH Smith chairman, and Richard Handover, its chief executive, yesterday afternoon by Mr Waterstone and Ian Martin, the Unigate chairman.

Smith shareholders would receive a payout of 150p-200p per share rather than the 200p orig-

inally proposed. This would reduce the gearing of the new leveraged Smith's from over 80 per cent under the backing. But Waterstone may original terms, to around 60 per

A further payment may be made to shareholders following the possible sale of some parts of the business. These could include the Virgin Our Price music chain and the US business. It would report on these disposals by the end of March.

Another key difference in the new plan is that Mr Handover would retain his position as chief executive. Tim Waterstone would he executive deputy chairman with Mr Martin as chairman. There would be no place on the board for current chairman Jeremy Hardie. The changes were viewed as a way of getting Mr Handover "on side" to help achieve the board's approval

A strategy committee consisting of Mr Martin, Mr Water-

Under the revised deal, WH stone, Mr Handover and Keith Hammill, the group's finance director, would be in charge of the new group's future

direction and disposals. Mr Waterstone would be in charge of repositioning the core WH Smith retail format with a new brand WH Smith Metro. This would be rolled out to 370 stores over three years. They would concentrate on authoritative offerings in books, statinnery and news.

The Swindon warehouse would be closed while 10 of the larger Smith hranches would be converted to Waterstone megastores along the lines of the new outlet in Glasgow.

Under the new plans, the new holding company would acquire Daisy & Tom, Mr Waterstone's childrens store, for £9.7m with additional payments dependent on performance.

The new plans also see the up-front expenses of the fees limited to £15m. SBC Warburg, Mr Waterstone's backers, would accept part of its fees in performance warrants

Outlook, page 23.

Hambros investors expect

believed the hanking, insurance and estate agency group was preparing to break itself up to enhance shareholder value despite the company's insistence that press reports were pure speculation". Hambros shares rose 12.5p to 246p as dealers focused on estimates that the group could be worth considerably more in separate pieces than as a whole.

A spokesman refused to comment on forecasts that it would reveal preliminary details of its plans when it announced half-year figures next month. City sources said Hambros was understood to have employed Schroders to help it put together hreak-up proposals. Splitting the group up would

mark another step in Hambros' deterinrating fortunes. Its reputation took a severe blow when it advised Andrew Regan in his failed attempt to take over the Co-Operative Wholesale Society earlier this year and it was criticised recently for its rejection of a hid for Hambro Insurance Services, in which it holds a controlling 52 per cent stake.

The bid from Fisher In-

Investors in Hambros yesterday ternational was pitched at 128p a share but since its rejection the price has fallen below 100p. That has irritated shareholders in Hambros, including Regeot Pacific, the Hoog Kong-based fund headed by Jim Mellon, which owns 3.5 per cent of the

> William Philips, a director of Regent, said yesterday: "Many shareholders, including ourselves, would like to see a break-up and would welcome it. Hambros suffers from a conglomerate discount."

He said Regent had been disappointed that Hambros had rejected the approach from Fisher International

Regent has been lobbying Hambros to break itself up for some time and believes the group could be worth as much as 350p a share.

Hambros shares have underperformed the market by almost 35 per cent in the past year and have dropped from a peak of 458p in 1994.

Since January this year they have slipped from a high of 268p at a time when the banking sector has performed strongly.

Guinness and GrandMet clear the Brussels hurdle

Gulnness and Grand Metropolitan yesterday cleared one of the biggest hurdles in their bid to create the biggest drinks company in the world by agreeing to **European Commission** demands to dispose of two whisky brands. Andrew Yates finds that the drinks groups appear to have got off lightly.

The European Commission yesterday gave the green light to the £24bn merger between Guinness and Grand-Met but forced the UK drinks companies to dispose of one of their main

European whisky brands. Guinness and GrandMet, to be called GMG Brands, has agreed to EC demands to sell its Dewar's brand in

Europe within 15 months to satisfy concerns that it would have a dominant position in the Spanish and Greek whisky markets.

The move has fuelled speculation that the US Federal Trade Commission (FTC), which is also investigating the deal, may also call on GMG to sell Dewar's in the US. The FTC is also likely next week to sanction the merger subject to concessions, according to industry sources.

One drinks analyst said: "It is highly unlikely that the US would refuse to sanction the deal after the EC has waived it through."

pose of Ainslie, one of the smaller stantial step forward' whisky brands in its portfolio, popular in Belgium and Luxembourg, and sell some distribution interests in Ireland.

Analysts believe the European disposals will cost GMG around £10m a than £500m from the sale of the Deyear in profits. However if the drinks war's brand around the world. Allied



GMG has also been called on to dis- Guiness's Tony Greener: 'A sub-

group is forced to dispose of Dewar's in the US it could hit profits by £50m. That said, GMG could raise more

Seagram, the Canadian drinks giant, relieved." are likely hidders.

GMG is thought to have had to give up more than it originally thought. The drinks group had proposed selling a collection of secondary brands including VAT69 and White Horse as well as Ainslie, according to sources close to Brussels. But the EC is believed to have demanded greater concessions after rivals lobbied for more important brands to be sold.

Dewar's is the best selling whisky in the US, ahead of GMG'6 other brands such as Johnnie Walker and J&B. It is a net third biggest seller in markets such as Spain and Greece. Guinness sells 2.7 million cases of Dewar's around the world.

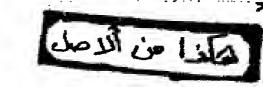
However most nalysts believe that the EC could have demanded much greater concern one one analyst said;

Domecq. Highland Distilleries and atively tightly. The group must be very

Clearance from the EC comes just days after GMG patched up its differences with Bernard Arnault, the head of French luxury goods group LVMH, who had been the merger's most vociferous opponent. Mr Arnault has now agreed in back the deal and set up distribution agreements with GMG in return for £250m in cash.

George Bull, chairman of Grand-Met and Guinness's chairman, Tony Greener, said in a joint statement yesterday: "We are pleased that we were able to put forward proposals that met the approval of the Commission. The regulatory approval in Europe is a substantial step forward to achieve the creation of GMG Brands."

Investors reacted favourably to the news, pushing GrandMet's shares 16p higher to 625p and Guinness by 17p



OUTLOOK ON ATTITUDES TO MONETARY UNION. THE WH SMITH PROPOSALS AND THE NEW BID FOR MCI

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What's good for GM may not be best for Britain

Big husiness is in pru-monetary union monetary union or is the Government ever the European Ceotral Bank wantmode ooce more. Dr Mustafa Mohatarem, chief economist at General Motors, may oot have gone so far as some reports suggested and suid outright that GM would withdraw from Britain if we don't joio the single currency, but he might well have done. His comments the other day oo Radio 4 could hardly have been more pro-EMU.

In itself there is nothing particularly startling or oew in this. It is the sort of thing that the CBI, some of its larger corporate members, and Britain's burgeoning band of inward investors, have been saying for some years now. The latest round of pro-EMU noise from hig husiness is nonetheless being given an added piquancy because of the general view that the new Labour Government is warming to the single currency and might want to take us in at the earliest opportunity.

Given that the electorate, according to the opinion polls, is still strongly sceptical about monetary union, it plainly helps in the softening up process if husiness starts to warn of dire consequences if we don't join. It is probably too conspiratorial to believe that Gordon Brown and others are deliherately pushing business into making such comments. Dr Mohatarem doesn't even live in Britain and it seems doubtful that he has met either Tony Blair or Mr Brown, But certainly it is sometimes hard to tell just who is manipulating whom. Is it hig husiness trying to push the Government towards

enjoining business in the cause in the hope that if enough authoritative voices back the single currency then eventually it might win a referendum on the

The probable answer is that what we are seeing here is a meeting of minds. The single currency suits the big multinationals, who see in it an opportunity to cement Britain's part in the single European market and enhance their power, profits and influence. And it suits inward iovestors, who fear that if Britaio is not wholly a part of Europe, theo they might be disadvantaged in lucrative export markets. Mr Brown, at least, seems to have bought these arguments, even if Mr Blair is for the time being keeping his counsel.

It is worth recalling here that the CBI and some of our major companies took a very similar view of the European Exchaoge Rate Mechanism. We have to be a part of it, we must be a part of it, they told the Government and eventually even Mrs Thatcher caved in.

Within a year or two, struggling under the weight of uoacceptably high interest and exchange rates on top of an already deep recession, they were just begging to be let out. It took that nice Mr Soros finally to force what the politicians seemed incapable of accepting - a

If we scrapped the pound completely, there would be no such second chances. We would be locked into what-

ed to visit on us.

So in listening to what hig busioess has to say on monetary union, the Goveramoot needs to be very aware of the possibility that this may be nu more than clever special pleading. It would obviously be beneficial for big multinationals like Unilever and BP to be part of it, whatever the economic consequences of the single currency for Britain. These are as much Continental as British companies. For them, the more integrated Europe becomes as a market place, the better. It is not entirely clear that the same is true for the corner shop owner, or any other small businessmao servicing a more localised economic environ-

Big business has set the economic agenda wrongly once hefore. The Government should be very careful that it doeso't happeo again. It may be that Dr Mohatarem is right about the single currency, but the Government should not be standing in awe of what these people are saying. The issue is a rather wider one than the level of GM's profits and the ease with which it is able to do busi-

Plan B for Smiths is not much better

Tim Waterstone has returned with Plan B for his putative takeover of W H Smith.

Under the proposals sketched out yesterday, the debt levels will be lower, there is a far more realistic valuation of his Daisy & Tom business, which now appears to be worth only a quarter of its value a formight ago and the advisers fees will be lower. Mr Waterstone is also proposing to tinker with the boardroom structure so thatinstead of installing himself as chief executive over the head of Richard Handover, he would become deputy chairman with Mr Handover

staying put However, for all the rearranging of the deck chairs. Plan B is not a decisive improvement on his first stab at a leveraged takeover. Smiths shareholders are still being habed with their own money and asked to put their faith in a much more highly geared vehicle. Nor does it look likely that the incumbent managemeot will settle down to a life of harmonious co-existence with the man who was trying to snatch their company from under them a few days ago

If Mr Waterstone's ideas of a capital repayment coupled with a break up of the busioess are so attractive to sharebolders, then why doesn't the existing management implement them and dispense with the fancy fees that SBC Warburg will ring up?

Smith's probably has a duty to put the Waterstone proposals to its annual meeting next Wednesday and let shareholders have their say. Having missed his opportunity to strike when the ship was rudderless, the most galling thing for Mr

Waterstone would be either to see the incumbent management copy his ideas or discover that he had spurred them into action. That, however, if often the fate of the interloper.

Maybe Sir lain was right about MCI

Then there were three. A month ago MCI was a pariah company and British Telecom was being widely condemned for wanting to buy it at all, even at the devalued price eventually oegotiated. In short order MCI has now attracted two rival hids, the latest an all-cash offer from GTE, one of the US's biggest local phone uperators.

BT may have stood an outside chance against WorldCom, whose offer was made in hyper-inflated stock. But this latest bid is all cash. Bar regulatory interference, it is hard to see how BT can fight

There are higger cost savings available to both US hidders than BT, as an outsider, could ever have achieved. Even so, the fact that MCI is now so much in demaod from others in the industry does rather vindicate BT's much criticised strategy. It is just about possible for one telecoms company wrongly to ideotify MCl as a good takeover target - but three uf them? It looks as if the City may have to send Sir Jain Val-

lower on inflation fears

The number of people out of work in Britain has fallen to its lowest level for years, and some experts fear a new wageprice spiral. But the financial markets are more worried about the risk of higher inflation and interest rates on the other side of the Atlantic, writes Dione

The oumber of unemployed people claiming heaefit fell to its lowest for 17 years last month. Yet it was oot the latest evidence of a tight jobs market that sent shares lower vesterday, but rather evidence from retail sales figures that the US economy is still booming.

Coyle, Economics Editor.

The FTSE 100 index ended 35 points lower at 5,263.7, having fallen 75 points after the release of the US figures. By late morning Wall Street was slightly lower too, the Dow 29 points

down at 8,067.56. Many analysts reckon interest rates will rise in both the UK and US oest month. Minutes of the September meeting of the Bank of England's Monetary Policy Committee published yesterday showed that its experts were concerned about the impact of the soaring stock

market on the economy, and also about the danger that

wage growth might pick up. The drop of 27,800 in the number of claimants during September took the headline unemployment rate down to 5.2 per cent, or 1,467,600 people.

Figures based on the Labour Force Survey (LFS), considered to be a more complete picture of the state of the jobs market, showed a drop of 40,000 in the .. compares with a 73.000 drop in number looking for work during June to August. On this measure unemployment reearty 1990, at 1,997,000 people. or 7.1 per cent.

The decline in unemployment on this basis is much smaller than the headline change because strong employment growth has brought many people who had dropped ont back into the jobs market. The survey shows that during the year to August employment climbed by 439,000, knocking 258,000 off unemployment and bringing 181,000 people who had become "economically in-

active" back into the workforce. Although both sets of figures showed that the jobs market has tightened, the growth in average earnings in the year to August remained at 4.5 per cent.

Economists were sharply divided about how to interpret vesterday's batch of figures. Some focused on the cootinuing fall in the jobless rate and

rising vacancies. The number of unfilled vacancies at Jobcentres reached a record level of just under 301,000 in September. Others, however, drew comfort from the steady earnings growth and the fact that the decline in unemployment might be slowing. According to the survey figures, the 40,000 decline in the number looking for

work in the latest three months

the previous quarter. The possibility that the tighter jobs market might lead turned to its lowest level since to high wage inflation was one of the concerns ea Monetary Policy Committee. Although the committee voted unanimously not to raise interest rates, and also left rates unchanged at its October meeting, many City analysts expect

an increase next month. Kevin Darlington at ABN-Amro said: "It would not take much to push the Bank past the critical point." Figures next week for third-quarter GDP growth would be key to the decision.

On the other hand, Eric Fishwick of Nikko Europe predicted borrowing costs would not rise again this year: "It is obvious that the Bank has its finger on the trigger but feels there is no need to shoot just yet."

Separately, figures for retail sales in the US showed a sturdy increase in September rather than the decline most analysts had expected.

US sales figures send shares Part of the Post Office may be put up for sale

The outcome of the Government's review into the Post Office is set to emerge soon amid indications that ministers will sanction a public-private partnership as the answer to its calls for commercial freedom.

Michael Heron, the Post Office chairman, and his chief executive, John Roherts, have been

Michael Harrison reports.

called to a meeting with the Industry Minister, Ian McCartney, in two weeks' time to he told how the Government intends to free the organisation up.

The Government appears to

have ruled out a sale of a majority stake in the Post Office. But the prospect of a partial sale, allowing the private sector to take a stake of up to 49 per cent in the business, looks possible. Mr Heron said yesterday

that the ownership of the Post Office was a matter for the Government but he would not object to a solution that left \$1

per cent in public hands and allowed the remainder to be sold. An announcement about exactly what form of commercial freedom it will be allowed and the degree of private funding is expected around Christ-

The priority for the Post Office is to be released from the constraints of the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement which prevent it from borrowing on the open market to develop commercial ventures.

Mr Roherts said that unless it was removed from the stranglebold of the PSBR then any

other changes to the Post Of- fice bought TNT earlier this fice would amount to little year. more than "cosmetics around the edges".

The Post Office's contribution to the Exchequer last year reached £500m, including taxes and the "dividend" it pays from profits through the PSBR. Mr Heron said that using the Post Office as a cash cow was no basis on which to run a com-

mercial competitive business. Commercial freedom would allow the Post Office to set up joint ventures with private opcrators and even take them over - the privatised Dutch Post Of-

Meaowhile the Post Office has warned that many husinesses, including its own, may not be able to cope with the millennium timehomh and a switch to a single currency at the same time.

Mr Roberts said the Post Office was spending £60m to get its computers ready for the date change in 2000. If it had to prepare for EMU at the same time, a changeover that would require huge retraining of counters staff, then it might be overwhelmed.

64-bit 4Mb Graphics

SIB increases payout limit to £200m

The Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the City's leading regulator, is taking action to avert a crisis that could prevent thousands of victims of pension mis-selling from receiving compensation of up to £10,000

SIB yesterday warned that a £100m annual limit on compensation payouts, made under the Investors Compensation Scheme, could be breached because of the mounting cost of redressing mis-selling victims of firms that have become defunct. Under the compensation scheme's rules, payouts are halted if the £100m limit is exceeded. This would leave thousands of mis-selling victims with no means of redress:

The SIB yesterday tabled proposals to double the annual limit to £200m. The new limit would apply only to those victims of defunct firms who came under the remit of the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

In a consultation paper, the SIB is also proposing a safety clause in case the new £200m limit is also breached. The safety clause would allow part of any particular year's compensation hill to be carried over to the next year.

Andrew Winckler, the SIB's chief executive, said: "The current proposals are being made as a precautionary measure in the interests of investor protection. It is prudent that we make timely provision to accommodate pensions claims."

Behind the proposals is a fear that the bill for mis-selling by 4,700 now-defunct firms may well exceed £100m: So far, the regulators have identified 10.000 cases of mis-selling by defunct firms.

Many more victims have still to be contacted. Despite letters from the PIA, less than half of the 295,000 people who were sold pensions by the defunct firms have responded.

The PIA is also seeking to contact 33,000 people who have changed address. They can call the PIA on 0171 417 7001. Andrew Verity



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THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY SAMEENA AHMAD

Redlands needs white knights

What would Rediand be worth in a break up? Lafarge, the French group, is offering 320p cash for its building materials rival. Rudolph Agnew, Redland's chairman and a veteran of hostile takeovers, is arguing that there is greater value in Rediand's assets than that.

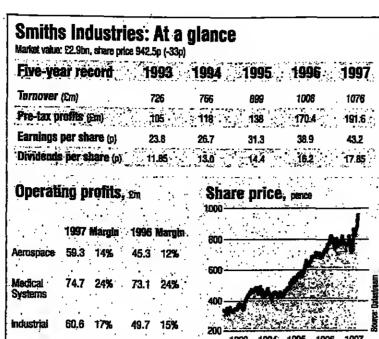
To prove it he may need to find white knights either to huy the whole group or, more likely, to buy its aggregates and roofing divisions separately.

How much could these pieces fetch? Taking aggregates first, on a typical takeout multiple of 11 times forecast operating profits for 1997 of £90m, the UK and US aggregates businesses are worth £990m. On top of that add roughly another £150m to reflect the assets of French aggregates, though currently lossmaking. That gives a total value for aggregates of £1.14bn. However the scarcity of holes in the ground worldwide means Redland aggregate might actually fetch closer to their current book value at the half year of £1.25bn at constant exchange rates.

On the other side is RBB, Redland's hanging on for. roof tile husiness, an undoubted world leader despite the hit from Germany's weak economy. RBB can probably Smiths a victim command at least 16 times forecast after-tax earnings of £80m, or £1.3bn in Of its success total. The snag is that Redland only owns 56.5 per cent of RBB, so its stake is worth just over £800m, adjusting for Smiths Industries has done it again. RBB's own £100m of debt this year.

Add up the two and subtract Redland's £420m group debt and you are it unveiled another impressive set of left with just over £1.65bn, or 317p a results. Underlying earnings rose 16 per sbare. That excludes the tiny and loss-cent to £192m for the year to August making Asian business. The end result and dividends were one-tenth up at is almost exactly the value of Lafarge's 17.9p, the 27th year in a row it has in-

However this husiness has been hadly managed and any hidder would in the aerospace market which followed expect to reap synergies and possibly tax a sharp pick-up in aircraft orders on benefits. Cost savings of some £20m the back of booming airline passenger would imply at least another 20p to 30p numbers. Its defence order book also a share on the offer price. A second hid- looks assured. Future profits should be der emerging would add more. Certainly bolstered by Smiths' US contract to



to 340p yesterday, reflects expectations of a higher offer.

There may be no bonanza of hidden value for Mr Agnew to unlock. But even another 20p is worth

Shrugging off a £12m currency hit and reshuffle of its top management team, creased pay-outs.

Smiths benefited from the upturn Redland's share price, up another 1.5p supply planes for its new fleet of air-

craft carriers. It is also in line for hun-

from the Eurofighter project, which is

finally getting off the ground. Not that the company depends on aerospace. Its industrial division has proved a solid performer. And Graseby, the latest £136m addition to its medical division, looks like a great buy.

However, despite the good news. Smiths shares fell 33p to 942.5p.

The company has become a victim of its own success. Smiths' margins are already very healthy and there is little scope for significant improvement, And it can no longer rely on small acquisitions making a significant impact purchase and the absence of a deal with these results explains the market's disappointment.

firepower to make a significant purchase and is eyeing up plenty of targets, including a chunk of BOC's Ohmeda medical business. However, as deals get higger, they usually become more ex-

Smiths now has to prove it can grow

to build up margins. Nat West forecasts current year profits of £209.1m, putting the shares on a prospective ratio of 20. Hold.

its too line as reliably as it has been able

Tie Rack takes a currency hit

It has been a tough few months for Tie Rack, the specialist retailer run by the ever-exuberant Roy Bishko. From a recent high of 203.5p in April the shares have been drifting down steadily as fears over the impact of the strong pound begin to take root.

Yesterday the shares fell a further 4.5p to 127p as the company confirmed the currency damage to its half-year results. Though underlying profits were up on the same period last year, the pretax figure in the six months to 17 Auust slumped from £604,000 to just £158,000. The currency hit to profit dreds of millions of pounds of work translation was £500,000.

Then there was uncertainty caused by the surprise management changes which will see Nigel McGinley step down as chief executive to be replaced by two joint managing directors who have been promoted internally.

At the trading level, like-for-like sales were more or less flat in the first half and similar in current trading. The new joint venture in Japan broke even and the Knot Shop acquisition in the US offers the group the opportunity to sell branded ties in that format while concentrating on own-label in Tie Rack.

A programme to refurbish the 419on its share price, however good the strong store portfolio is set to start deal. Investors are now expecting a big though the company declined to put a cost on it yesterday. The company may also expand the Knot Shop format overseas. On expected full-year profits of Smiths certainly has the financial £8.8m, Tie Rack shares trade on a forward multiple of 12. Quite cheap for a well-managed company, though one increasingly dominated by Mr Bishko. Much depends on the future strength of sterling and bow the new management team can prove themselves. Worth holding.

IN BRIEF

ITV companies warned on licence commitments

Sir Robin Biggam, chairman of the Independent Television Commission, last night warned ITV companies that regional programming commitments were "non-negotiable" during the process of licence renewal which starts next year. In a speech before the ITC's monthly meeting, Sir Rohin said: "We are ... talking about licence renewal, not licence renegotiation. Companies can not tear up existing licence commitments and start again with a clean sheet." ITV companies would be held to promises about regional programming, regardless of the rapid consolidation of the 15 TTV regions into the hands of four major players, Sir Rohin

BNFL in merger talks

British Nuclear Fuels and Siemens, the German electrical engineering giant, are in talks to merge their nuclear fuel supply businesses in a move which would create a company with sales of more than £900m. Graham Watts, BNFL's commercial director, warned the merger would involve some joh losses, but said the number would be limited. "There are additional cost reductions from this merger from eliminating duplication," he said. BNFL. the state-owned reprocessing group, employs 2,300 staff near Preston in its fuel division, which supplies nuclear fuel to British Energy and Magnox Electric. Siemens' business is larger, employing 4,100 people.

Changes at Hongkong Telecom

Cable & Wireless yesterday announced management changes at Hongkong Telecom, its Incrative subsidiary, hut disappointed investors by failing to reveal a long-awaited deal with China Telecom to give the group greater access to the vast Chinese phone market. Dick Brown, C&W's chief executive, is to become chairman of Hongkong Telecom, replacing Brian Smith, who is also C&W chairman. Li Ping, chief operating officer of China Telecom (Hong Kong), is to join the Hongkong Telecom hoard as a non-executive director. C&W shares fell 14p to 545.5p after the company dashed hopes that it would reveal a deal to huy a stake in China Telecom.

Calor Gas reduces stake

The shake-out in the domestic gas market continued yesterday when Calor Gas announced a partial withdrawal from Calortex, its lossmaking joint venture with Teraco, Calor's Dutch parent group, SHV, is reducing its stake in Calortex from 50 per cent to 16.7 per cent in a deal which will see Nuon, a large multi-utility company in the Netherlands, take a 33.3 per cent share in the company.

Ad agency buys Craik Jones

Abbott Mead Vickers, the advertising agency, yesterday agreed to huy the direct marketing specialist Craik Jones Watson Mitchell Voelkel for up to £12m. Peter Mead, Abbott Mead's chairman, said be bad been talking to Craik Jones for around a year.

Power station closures to be reviewed

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The electricity industry regulator yesterday dealt an unexpected blow to National Power and PowerGen when he launched a review of their recent decisions to close part of three coal-fired power stations.

Professor Stephen Littlechild warned that the moves to reduce coal-fired generating capacity, which would take effect from next April, could drive up wholesale power prices. The review, by an independent consultant, would look at whether the two companies should offer generating capacity for sale to outside bidders.

The probe represents a boost for RJB Mining, the UK's leading coal producer, which has highlighted the risk to mining jobs from the reduction in coalfired generating plants and the rise of gas generation. RJB had urged the privarised generators to offer parts of their power stations to other operators in the hope that it would maintain demand for coal.

The investigation will focus on National Power's closure of a generating unit at Willington power station in Derbyshire and the mothballing of two units at a large station at Tilbury in Essex, which burn imported coal. PowerGen's decision to shut one of four units at the Ferrybridge power station near Doncaster will also be examined.

A spokesman for National Power said the company was "continually approached" about selling generating ca-pacity, but said it would be too difficult to sell or lease parts of existing stations. "We don't believe it's tenable for a competitor to own or lease part of a production unit which is located under the same roof with common services at a plant we continue to operate." - Chris Godsmork



25/SHARES

British Biotech's fall from grace continues as shares hit low

MARKET REPORT



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DEREK PAIN STOCK MARKET REPORTER OF THE YEAR

fade away. The shares, in brisk 115p, lowest for two years.

The group is now capi-talised at £760m. In its halcy-being, killed off. on days, with the shares riding coming a Footsic constituent.

last year when its £143m rights issue achieved only a 49 per ceot take up. Theo came the departure of the finance director, James Noble.

The stock market's growing nervousness over the biotech companies added to BriBio's discomfort and last week's setback over a potential arthritis drug further undermined sentiment.

drug developers, continues to be worth no more than 2p a peak. share the price wilted because trading, fell a further 5p to what could have been a luhas been, at least for the time

BriBio's great white hope, at 326.5p, it just missed be- of course, is Marimastal, a cancer drug which is said to rep-The fall from grace started resent 80p a share. But developing drugs is a tortuously slow process and, as is brutally clear, success can be as the Tim Waterstone proan elusive commodity.

The rest of the market was fluences. A slide in Hong disclosed approaches which Kong ensured a hesitant open- could lead to "a change in coning and a weak start in New York added to the gloom. Then the Dow Jones Average 3.5p to 712.5p after another recovered some of its lost and prompting Footsic to

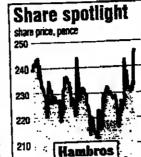
Takeover yarns continue crative relationship with Glaxo the cable and construction a 650p suggested price and Sagroup, was at ooe time 15p higher on speculation of a strike from Wassall or ao Italian group. But the yarn was greeted with widespread scepticism and the shares ended with a 4p gain at 186.5p. WH Smith fell 4.5p to 402p

posals appeared and Etam, the women's clothing chain, under the spell of overseas in-Great Universal Stores fell

> presentation to analysts, this time involving its mail order di-

British Biotech, once the was abandoned. Although it is The FTSE SmallCap index, heart-throb of the fledgling calculated the lost drug should drug developers continues to the unset of the properties of the prop lower to 601p as Dresdner hostile Italian bid. Kleinwort Benson alighted on

> 186.5p with SBC Warburg signalling 220p. Commercial Union lost 2



little of Tuesday's enthusiasm,

lomon Brothers went to 700p.

British Steel rose 3.75p to

French group AGF, facing a Merchani bank Hambros

and Standard Chartered down. Cable & Wireless was another under the Hong Kong

market influence. It also had to conteod with disappointment after it failed to come up with details of any significant progress in China. The shares fell 14p to 545.5p. Worries about third-quarter figures lowered Imperial

Chemical Industries a further 3.5p to 956p but Thames Water enjoyed share buyback hopes, up 11p at 894.5p.

ory the grant merger cocktail will force it into a spirits alrose 12.5p to 246p on break- liance, hardened 7p to 522.5p up suggestions and the Hong
Kong setback pulled HSBC art is Scotch brands include Scottish Leader - put on 5.5p to 53p on continuing speculation of a reverse takeover by

William Grant & Sons. BNB Resources, a recruitment and training group, improved 7.5p to 142.5p. The company met institutional in-

vestors on Tuesday. Profit warnings took their toll. Chemical Design crashed 100p to 110p and Ferguson International 31.5p to 118.5p.

Sidney C Banks held at 312.5p. Cargil, the US giant Grand Metropolitan and thought to be eyeing the grain group, is believed to be rais-

TAKING STOCK

Shares of Coffee Republic, running half-a-dozen coffee bars in London, arrived at 22p after a reverse takeover of Arion Properties, a former Slater family vehicle. The company hopes to have 20 outlets within 15 months. Profits are unlikely for two

Solitaire, a property management group, placed at 148p closed at 182.5p. Metalsrussia, a steel supplier, ended at 70.5p following an introduction.

Emerald Energy, seeking oil in Columbia, held at 5.25p. Mercury Asset Management has oudged its interest from 10.3 per cent to 10.62 per

Display II, once the Ofex wonder stock, has had its share trading facility

	Because of side effects the treatment, developed with in- dustry giant Glaxo Wellcome		time involving its mail order di- vision. Bass, with Goldman Suchs	SOO W N J J V S O	Guinness celebrated the sels clearance with the si	Brus- group, is believed to thares ing a big European I	oan. withdrawn.	
High Low Reach Price Carg Yel Price 14 Alcoholic Beverrages 12 12 14 100 13 Alcoholic Beverrages 12 12 14 100 13 Alcoholic Beverrages 12 10 10 10 10 Alcoholic Beverrages 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 Alcoholic Beverrages 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 Alcoholic Beverrages 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 Alcoholic Beverrages 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 1	Because of side effects the treatment, developed with industry giant Glaxo Wellcome dustry giant	Teduce a 76.5 points loss to 35.2 at 5,263.7 by the close.	Vision Bass With Goldman Sachs	200	Code High Low Stack Avica Cog Top	Single Price Data	where staned. The yield is the latest twelve in chare price. The price/earnings (PFE) ratio is per share, excluding surracularly series but in per share. Teleshare — Tel. (0891 – 200) to access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours is current FTSE IDD index lolkowed by a Snock se on hear a Real-Time Share Price by keying our to set-up your Portfolio facility, please of cours). Including the Portfolio facility, call the Help I for the Price by keying the Portfolio facility, please of cours). Including the Portfolio facility, call the Help I for the Price by keying the Portfolio facility, please of the Port	200 dry, call 8691 - 201 200 Market Sommany Report 1
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British industry will struggle to get ahead in the single market



COYLE ON BREACHING THE EUROPEAN BOUNDARIES

The odds on Europe's single currency actually going ahead weeks go by. If nothing else, this is generating rapid growth in the Some of these are thoughtprovoking indeed. For the will be dramatic changes in Europe's industrial structure,

ample of the US-Canadian border shows, this is something that does not come into being without a single currency no matter how minuscule the trade barri- ideas and intellectual capital are ers or how intertwined the

The switch from heing a group of close trading partners to being one big market will open companies' eyes to the possibilities of exploiting higger economies of scale. This is precisely why EMU has the potential to boost long-term industries characterised by in-

Most economic theory has ignored the possibility of cconomies of scale - one example of "increasing returns", whereby the amount of output

per unit of inputs rises the more is produced, and average costs fall as the scale of production increases. In practise, however, increasing returns are widespread and hecoming steadily more pervasive in modem economies.

Some examples are obvious. The research and design costs make building the first aircraft far more expensive than subsequent ones. There is really room for only one commercial aircraft manufacturer in Europe. Research costs in pharmaceuticals make the same true of new drugs.

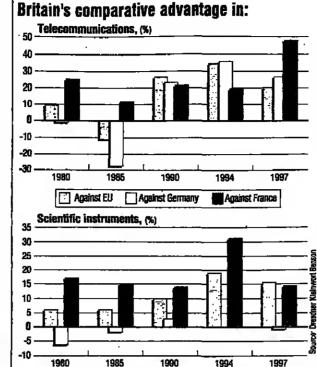
In fact, there are increasing returns in any industry where a high initial investment is needed for reasons of design or infrastructure, such as telecommunications or ears.

There are also examples that are less obvious but turn are improving steadily as the out to be widespread across the weightless industries. Take "people" businesses such as business of holding conferences consultancy, advertising or the about the implications of EMU. media, all accounting for a growing share of the economy.

Mostly, these can be done on closer I January 1999 gets, the a small scale; it only takes one more likely it looks that there or two people to write an advertising jingle. But in all these cases people prefer to collect to-The trigger fur this restruc- gether in agencies, in order to turing will he the creation of a generate ideas, hrainstorm, true single market. As the ex- keep an ear to the ground about work prospects and so on. There are additional benefits to be gained from the larger scale.

> This is true, as well, wherever important, including software or hiotechnology. In software, especially, it is important to be hig enough to capture "network" gains, the fact that a programme becomes more useful the more lots of other people

> One of the consequences of creasing returns is that chance events deliver the hulk of the market share to one company. It is a winner-takes-all world. To hecome the winner it is often enough just to be first. There are



countless examples of one company or one place dominating an entire market, especially when one technology is able to drive out others. The VHS standard for videos or Microsoft's operating system for personal computers are good examples.

But it is not always a question of getting a technological lead. Writers such as Michael Porter, John Kay and Paul Krugman have documented the strong tendency towards agglomeration in business, mainly as a result of accidents of his-

Concentration is the norm rather than the exception, But whereas industry in the US is very concentrated and individual states specialise in only a few products, most European countries produce a wide range of goods and services.

Breaching the boundaries that have divided Europe into separate markets will stimulate a new wave of agglomeration. Economists at City investment

bank Dresdner Kleinwort Benson have tried to figure out from past trade patterns which British industries have enough of a comparative advantage to scoop the European pot, and their report makes slightly alarming reading.

The good news is that the UK advantage lies in services (other than tourism) which are taking a growing share uf all modern economies, rather than goods, whose share is shrinking. Britain also has a clear advantage in telecommunications, and a less pronounced lead in science-intensive areas such as pharmaceuticals, advanced instruments, computers and power-generating equipment.

areas in which to have a head start. But apart from these cutting-edge areas, the chances of British manufacturing industry look dim.

whelming disadvantage in almost every other area, including food manufacture, plastics, tex-

tiles and much of the engineering sector, for instance.

These might be on the decline, but they still produce a lot of goods and employ a lot of people.

A separate report this week from management consultants KPMG points out that, quite apart from any large-scale redrawing of the industrial map. pan-European companies will do a lot of internal reshuffling

KPMG's Rory Colfer predicts that many will concentrate their accounting, treasury or purchasing operations on one site in single centres serving the entire company. This will be a matter, not of centralisation, but of increasing efficiency made possible by technology and triggered by the introduction of the Euro. "We are looking at the higgest changes in company structures since the 1970s," he

There is a final issue, which is that the pattern of production in a world of increasing returns is often unstable. One company can dominate an industry for decades and then, seemingly overnight, be toppled by another.

IBM used to be the ritan of the computer industry: Microsoft will no doubt share its

fate one day. All in all, joining the single currency implies for all potential members an extraordinary degree of industrial restructuring in order to deliver the longrun economic benefits of a true single market.

At a guess, the EU will end up with one country making cars, another producing pharmaceuticals, another manufac-Luckily, these are the right turing Europe's textiles and clothing. Britain will lose two of these; we will not be home to Europe's Motown.

It doesn't mean EMU shouldn't go ahead, but it would The UK is at an over- be nice to believe Europe's politicians had thought about the economic consequences of what they were getting into.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

JOHN WILLCOCK



Tradepoint, the electronic share dealing company that nearly went hust in the summer, has poached a heavyweight new boss from Barclays to spearhead its renewed attack on the London Stock Exchange.

Nic Stuchfield, 37, has spent the last nine years in a series of high profile roles, including chief executive of equities at BZW and a senior director of Barclays Global Investors, the world's largest indexed fund manager with \$420bn of assets.

Mr Stuckfield replaces Michael Waller-Bridge, who stepped down in July. The former decided to leave tong before Barctays' recent decision to flog off parts of BZW, says Peter Stevens, chairman of Tradepoint. But it still looks like good timing.

Mr Stevens himself was appointed at the time of the rescue refinancing at the end of July, which was led by Apax Partners and its chairman Ronnie Cohen. "The new investors were very keen to get a new chief executive to provide a new impetus to the company,"

City analysts think Tradepoint has an excellent chance of doing well when the LSE introduces American-style order-driven trading next month - the same system Tradepoint has been pushing for years. It may also benefit from some inside knowledge. Mr Stevens and another Tradepoint director, Stanislas Yassnkovich, were once deputy chairmen of the LSE at the same time. As Mr Stevens trenchantly observes: "We think we understand the competition,"

Nigel McGinley is stepping down next year as chief executive of Tie Rack after what will be 12 years with the company, in a mini-boardroom shake-up. Two board members are promoted, Martin Morgan to deputy chairman and Runnie Flax to joint managing director. while Brita Eickhoff joins the baord as joint managing director.

Mr McGirley says he will stay on as a con-

sultant with Tie Rack, and that he has a few projects up his sleeve. So will he be getting a gold watch from a grateful company on his retirement? "I don't know about that. The company's only 16 years old, so its a bit soon to have traditions like that," he says.

Roy Bishko, chairman of Tie Rack, is confident the new team will make their mark. "We discovered Brita Eickhoff, a South African, when she was backpacking in San Diego. She helped us open our first store in the US, and she did the same thing in Australia."

Congratulations tu Vicky Wright, who has has been elected only the second-ever female President of the Management Consultancies Association (MCA). "The last (female president) was Ann Shaw exactly 30 years ago, so its truly time we had another one," said Brian O'Rorke, executive director of the MCA.

Ms Wright has also just been promoted to become managing director of worldwide knowledge management and integration at Hay Management Consultants. It certainly. sounds grand. How will she fit it all onto her business cards?

Anyway, she will be joined at the MCA by. Mike Freedman, a partner of Kepner Tregoe, who has been elected the Association's vicepresident for the coming year.

Quilter & Co, the private client stockbroker, has recruited David Franklin from BWD Rensburg Unit Trust Managers in Leeds as a divisional director in order to grow its

This has nothing to do with smart repartee, however, hut is a reference to the Quilter Unit and Investment Trust Portfolio Service. Quilters was bought eight years ago by Commercial Union and is now aggressively growing its retail funds, and Mr Franklin looks the man for the job. Prior to his two year stint with Rensburg Mr Franklin spent ten years with Johnson Fry Asset Managers, where he designed and launched three investment trusts which raised a total of £100m.

I've just received another "postcard" by satellite phone from Gerry Acher, head of audit at KPMG, who is driving his 1932 baby Aston Martin from Peking to Paris.

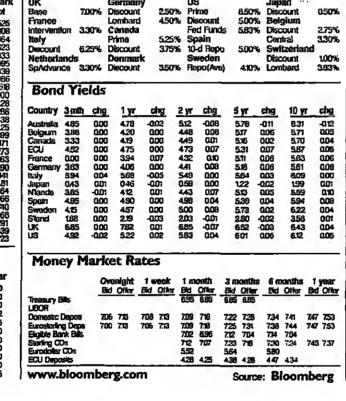
He has just left Greece and is heading for Italy by ferry, and is due to complete the vintage car rally in Paris this Saturday

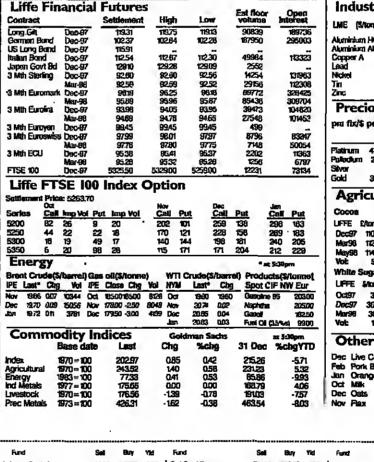
He says: "Our wonderful visit through Iran and the tremendous hospitality we received from all the Iranians was unfortunately marred when we passed through the last village before the Turkish border and were pelted with stones and rotten fruit". Sounds like an average shareholders' meet-

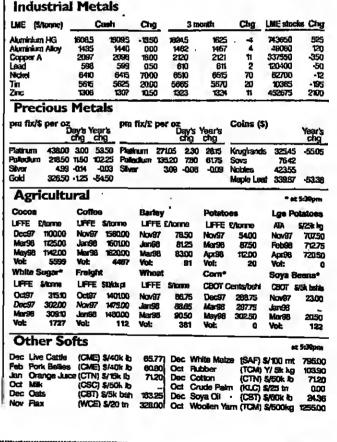
*We are now at the Greek port of Patras awaiting our ferry to Italy. This is a really tense time - so near yet so far."

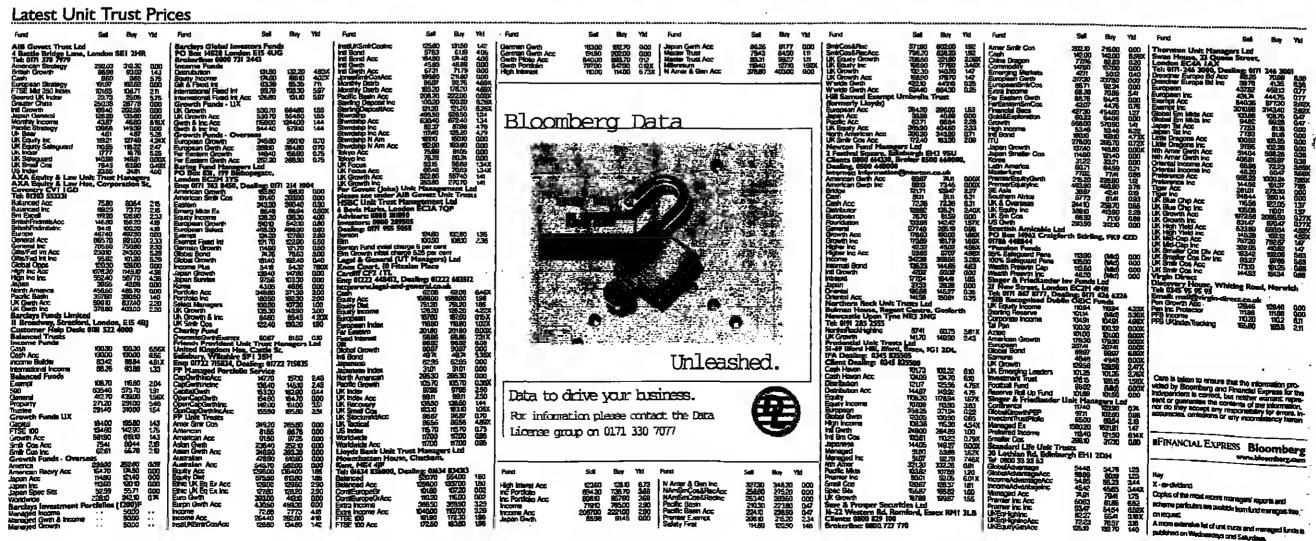
My fingers are crossed. Lets hope there's no rotten fruit throwing in Paris.











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- WEISLEY A

On Monday 19 October 1987, stock markets around the world crashed. As the 10th anniversary approaches Tom Stevenson, Financial Editor, asks whether history will repeat itself.

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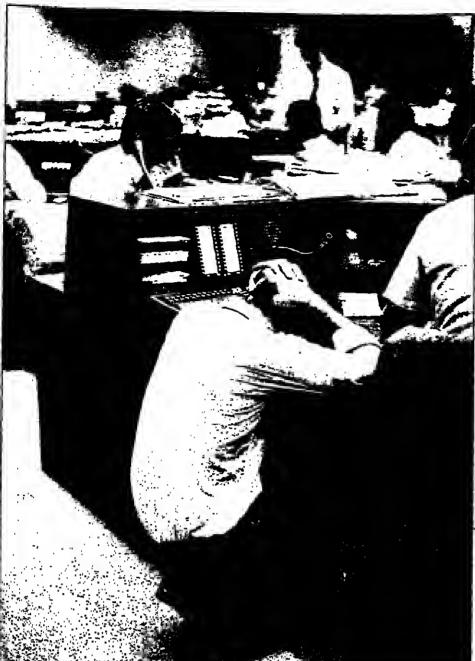
i you own shares or have a pension and you want a fright, look at the two charts on this page. They superimpose the current hull market on Wall Street on to its two most notorious predecessors, the speculative bubbles that ended so catastrophically in 1929 and 1987. The similarities are, to say the least, worrying.

If you believe that history repeats itself, it is time to run for cover from a crash that will destroy hillions of pounds of savings and pensions and could wreak havoc in the real economy beyond the financial markets. History does not repeat itself, of course, either in the magnitude of events or their timing. Ask half a dozen City prosionals what will happen to stock markets over the next year and you will get six different answers. That interplay between fear and greed, pessimism and optimism is what makes for a vibrant market.

But those raw emotions can blind otherwise rational people, as one famous investor, Joe Granville, noted; "Bear markets never come by appointment, ringing your front door by daylight hours. They come like a thief in the night, sneaking in the back door while the public sleeps the slumber of confidence."

If that is true, the growing pould set alarm bells ringing. The ratio of calls to puts for S&P index options, as good a measure of stock market confidence as aoy, is showing a more worrying proportion of optimists around and professional inabout the future direction of the market to pessimists than at any time this decade.

That chimes with a cynical view of buil markets which sug-



It could all end in tears: There are plenty of reasons why a crash might happen soon, bullishness on Wall Street hut there are equally plausible reasons why it might not Photograph: Rex Features

gests that they always go bail out in anticipation of a corthrough the same three phases. in the early stage of a stock market rise there is plenty of value vestors pile into underpriced stocks, driving their value up.

Once shares become overpriced on fundamental valuation models, the professionals

rection, it doesn't come, however, because private investors push shares higher. That makes fund managers oervous hecause they are missing out and they think of a way of getting back into the market without

losing face. They can't admit to their ulation before it all ends in tears.

1994-1998 Dow Jones: 1984-1988 and 1994-1998 We are almost certainly in shares like confetti, while this the final stages of the current bull run. What is unclear is new issues or cash calls. whether this one will end with a bang or a whimper. There are

Have we been here before?

Dow Jones: 1926-1930 and 1994-1998

plenty of reasons why a crash might happen - the scale of the rise on Wall Street, rising interest rates, high valuations, a heavy trade deficit and tensions about the US/Japanese exchange rate. But there are equally plausible reasons why it won't

Some shares are very highly rated, but strip out banks, oils and pharmaceuticals from the index and 1997 has actually been a rather disappointing year on the stock market Exporters, affected by the strength of sterling, and pretty much any small company, have missed out on the FISE 100's bonanza.

Although the market is as highly rated as it was in 1987. with shares trading on average when they withdrew from the at around 20 times earnings and dividend yields low, that is possibly justifiable when low inflation and so interest rates reduce the attractions of other financial assets. Another crucial difference is in the supply of new equity to the market. In 1987 companies were issuing oew

year there have been hardly any

At the bottom end of the market, directors of companies are huving shares in their own businesses at a faster rate than at any time since the dark days of 1992, just before the pound fell out of the exchange rate mechanism. The prospect of a weaker pound and strengthening European export markets signals good profits growth for smaller exporters.

The way London tracks Wall Street means a fall in the US market will be impossible to shrug off here. But will it turn into a bear market like the slump between April 1972 and December 1974 when shares lost 70 per cent of their value?

Probably oot. The crash of 1998 is likely to be a correction of between 10 and 20 per cent followed by fairly rapid recovery. But be warned. It is fashionable to dismiss talk of bear markets but one only has to look at Japan, where shares are still more than 50 per cent below their 1989 peak, to know that the wily bear is still out there. Waiting patiently.

Fear of inflation was the final straw for Wall Street

If share prices fell today on market to market around the same scale as they dived on Monday 19 October 1987. the Dow Jones index would shed about 1,800 points. The crash a decade ago on Sunday was, proportiooately, rwice as bad as the Great Crash of October 1929.

It did not hit London quite as severely. Although the stock market had been closed on Friday by the previous night's carastrophic storm, the FTSE 100 index fell by "only" 11 per cent on the Monday. But even that would correspond to a more than 550-point collapse today.

A hiography of Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve chairman, reports that he flew to Dallas, Texas, on the Monday morning to give a speech. Arriving at the airport after the market had closed in the afternoon, he first misunderstood officials telling him the Dow had fallen by "five-oh-eight" as a 5.08 cent. Three hundred points of the decline had occurred in the last hour of trading. The book, Back from the Brink, notes: "Oddly enough, Greenspan recalls he slumbered peacefully that night, getting his usual five hours of

Although the Monday was cataclysmic, the previous week had been bad enough. The index had fallen 95 points (a record) on Wednesday after the publication of on Thursday, and 108 points on Friday (another record).

One of the characteristics of the 1987 crash was the way the batoo was passed from

the globe. After New York closed, Tokyo and Hong Kong recorded declines, and London followed suit the next morning. London kept it up on Tuesday 20 October, recording another 12 per cent drop.

A second feature was the way automatic "program trading" by arbitrageurs accelerated the fall in shares, which happened so rapidly that the NYSE's communications systems could not display up-to-date prices. The introduction of "circuit breakers" after a 50-point fall in the Dow should prevent a repeat, imposing pauses when the index is heading up

or down too sharply.
With hindsight, all the conditions had been there for a stock market crash. Shares had risen very sharply, and were fairly widely regarded as overvalued. There was a clear imbalance in the US econodrop, not 508 points, or 23 per my, which was manifested in the yawning trade deficit.

There was also severe tension between the American and German governments over the levels of their currencies. The Louvre Accord, agreed the previous spring, had halted the two-year fall in the dollar from its 1985 peak. But by the autumn the co-ordinatioo seemed to be breaking down, and the Germans had raised interest rates earlier in October.

The final trigger was the bad trade figures, 58 points fear of higher inflation. Sudden signs of wage and cost pressures took long-term bond yields higher, making equities look even more overvalued.

-Diane Coyle

The market fed off its own statistics

ing my City career but only two crashes. The first came in 1974. the second in 1987. The former was more devastating econom-

Prices had already halved from their 1972 peak by the summer of 1974. They then halved again during the second half of that year. The financial viability of many City institutions was called into quescon. Shares became dramatically undervalued but confidence was slow to restore and, al-Lough prices rose in 1975, the economy and the market drifted sideways for five years.

The crash of 1987 was not as damaging but was more spec-

in the New York stock market on 19 October 1987 was the largest one-day percentage change io stock prices since records began. Such unprecedented changes caused significant trading losses, but the viability of financial institutions

Coming so close after Big Bang, which brought additional capital and greater competition to the London market, the financial effects were absorbed reasonably well.

It was an uncomfortable time but the London markets remained open when others imposed trading restrictions or closed down. New players in the

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There have been many correct acular. The speed of the price London scene were reluctant to rous to stock market prices dur-collapse was stunning. The fall answer their telephones. The spirit of the old London jobbing firms embodied by my new colleagues from Wedd Durlacher shone through. They continued making prices despite considerable uncertainty and the knowledge that significant trading losses had already been incurred.

was not threatened as in 1974. Private client investors were nervous. The memories of 1974 were still vivid but some were new to the game, having been enticed by privatisation offerings and tax incentives (PEPs).

The institutional investors appeared to be ready to take advantage of prices more in line with fundamental values.

But my overriding memory was the way the market fed off

itself. There was less interest in the economic indicators than in the market statistics. The balcony overlooking BZW's dealing floor was crammed with representatives of the world's press. This was the first occasion after Big Bang when the City was headline news.

trustees that they got it wrong

market so they kid themselves

it is different this time. The

"new paradigm" is invented,

usually a tenuous theory about

low inflation and technological

change, and the professionals

return for a final orgy of spec-

Our dealers became familiar faces as every oews bulletin focused on the market's latest moves. The pictures of dealers looking at screens did oot convev the tensions individuals were experiencing. For many dealers this was their first experience of a crash. If history is any guide it may not prove to he their only experience.

- Michael Hughes,

Group Economic Adviser, BZW

Another important factor is

the supply of equities, which

was far higher in 1987 than now.

"In 1987, 65 per cent of turnovers

were financed by paper, as op-

posed to around 15 per cent

now", said Philip Wolstencroft of

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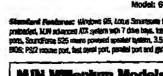
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No need to panic, the City strategists say

There was little evidence of the panic 10 years ago in the City yesterday, where equity strategists were united in the belief that history was not about to repeat itself. "Are we in for a 1987 crash? My answer is unequivocally no," said Bob Semple of NatWest Markets. "This is not 1987,"

saying that the bank's global valuation model suggested a world-wide overvaluation of 10 per cent. "The same model generates a 35 per cent over-valuation for 1987," he said.

reverse is the case.

the dramatic price response in 1987 to the fact that futures and options were then traded amongst a small group of professional traders. "Today there is a better balance in the market".

WHAT THE EXPERTS PREDICT

FTSE100 index yr end 97 yr end 98 Bob Semple, Nat West Mrkts 5800 4800 Nick Knight, Nomura Philip Wolstencroft, Merrill Lynch 5300 Michael Hughes, BZW Mike Young, Goldman Sachs Chris Carter, UBS

Merrill Lynch. Mr Hughes of BZW attributes at least some of added Michael Hughes of BZW. Chris Carter of UBS agreed,

The strategists pointed to important differences. In 1987,

according to UBS, inflation was rising and bond yields headshould fall, whereas in 1997 the likely to be as dramatic.

The City's experts think a substantial correction is more likely in the US than the UK. "The US is an accident waiting to happen", said Nick Knight of Nomura. The UK may well follow ing upwards, signs that markets suit but any correction here is un--Lea Paterson

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GOLF

Montgomerie clears the way to America

Ever in the news, Colin Montgomerie has written to members of the US Ryder Cup team he criticised at

Valderrama. Today, he leads Scotland in the Alfred Dunhill Cup, as Andy Farrell reports from St Andrews.

Before the golf, here are the day's list of denials: Mark James does not have a burning desire to be the Ryder Cup captain; Miguel Angel Martin is 100 per cent fit again and wants to forget the past; and Colin Montgomerie regrets the comments which have fuelled such a furore in America.

There was a long list of agenda here yesterday. Montgomerie's pre-tournament address to the press was prefaced with a written statement on which he would not entertain questions. Prior to the Ryder Cup, Montgomerie was asked American team was not as strong as many thought. What followed was an analysis of each of the US players, much of which was borne out by what happened at Valderrama

Among the highlights were that Tiger Woods may win five points but could not win the Cup on his own; no one would he intimidated by playing Jeff Maggert; and that Brad Faxon does not hit the ball straight enough for Valderrama, Where Monty strayed too far was in saying that because of his di-

vorce, Faxon mny not be mentally ready for the match.

By the time the comments were heavily quoted, misquoted and, in Montgomerie's view, "twisted" on the other side of the Atlantic, matters had got out of hand. With the Scot likely to play full-time in the States next year things needed cooling down.

My remarks did not come out as I intended and I regret this has occurred," Montgomerie read. "I especially regret the personal nature of remarks about members of the US team. I have written to each person on the team who was named in the press and to captain Tom Kite and I have made special efforts to discuss the situation with Brad Faxon and I shall always be grateful to him and shall respect his under-"Any other business" on the standing which, under the circumstances, has been so

"It has been particularly disappointing to me that other parties not directly related to the situation have taken it upon themselves to comment so agto justify his assertion that the gressively on uncorroborated and distorted reports."

This was a reference to remarks by US Tour players Fred Funk - "Monty is the jerk of the world" - and Boh Estes, who called him a "cry baby" and suggested no one would play practice rounds with the Scot.

But Faxon, who beat Montgomerie at the World Match Play at Wentworth last week and is a member of the defending American Dunhill Cup side, came out in support. "I don't think Colin's words were meanspirited," he said. Faxon also

said anyone cold-shouldering the Scot was worried about

him taking dollars out of their pockets if he plays in America. Martin did not want to rake over the even greater Ryder Cup controversy of his exclusion on fitness grounds. Today sees the Spaniard's first competitive round since the Open in July and although his left wrist is

strapped, he does not need any

more treatment or to exercise it. Europe's Ryder Cup captaincy for 1999 is up for grabs, but though mentioned in dispatches, James is not doing the grabbing. He once said you would have to be "stark raving bonkers" to want the job. "It is a no-win situation," he said yesterday. "Even Seve has been criticised and he won the thing." But, the increasingly skilled political operator that he is. James added: "It is something that if it ever came along I'd have to think about at the time it was offered."

James leads an England team that includes Lee Westwood and Russell Claydon and has been drawn against favourites America, who consist of Faxon, Mark O'Meara and Justin Leonard. The toughest of the four groups - the round-rohin system lasts three days while it takes as long for someone to work out who qualifies for the semi-finals and final on Sunday - is that containing Scotland, South Africa,

Ireland and Germany. ALFRED DUNCTILL CUP DRAW (St Andrews today until Sunday): Group One: Univer-States, England, Arganiana, Japan, Group Two Australa, Sweden, France, Talwan, Group BASEBALL

Marlins quick to join big fish in ball pond

Kevin Brown pitched a complete game as the Florida Marlins became the quickest expansion team to reach the World Series by beating the defending champions, the Atlanta Braves, to win the National League Championship Series.

We're there," said Florida's manager, Jim Leyland, after Tuesday's decisive 7-4 victory. "I told our club all along that I thought we were one club that could beat the Atlanta Braves."

The Marlins scored four times in the first inning against Tom Glavine and held on to win the series 4-2.

Florida, who entered the teague in 1993, eclipsed the mark of eight years set by the 1969 New York Mets for quickest expansion team to reach the World Series, doing it in its fifth season.

The upstart Marlins will face the winners of the American League Championship Series between the Cleveland Indians and Baltimore Orioles, with Games 1 and 2 of the World Series in Miami on Saturday and Sunday. Cleveland leads Baltimore 3-1.

Brown (2-0), scratched from one start and pushed back from another due to a viral infection, scattered 11 hits, but only three after the fourth inning. He walked one and struck out eight while throwing 140 pitches.

This is not about me," said Brown, who persuaded Leyland to leave him in the game in the seventh inning when the manager was about to pull him. "What I had to do



Florida Marlins pitcher Kevin Brown (right) celebrates Photograph: Reuter with team-mate Charles Johnson

is nothing compared to what this team has done all year

Leyland's Pittshurgh Pirates lost National League Championship Series to Cincinnati in 1990 and the Braves in 1991 and 1992. One of his top players with the Pirates was his current third haseman, Bohby Bonilla.

The pair wept together

on the field after the game. "It was a great deal of emotion." Bonilla said. "It took a long time to get here. I'm glad it was with Jim Leyland."

The Marlins were the National League wild card, finishing behind the Braves in the Eastern Division but beating them eight times in 12 games during the regular

RUGBY UNION

Woodward looks for new Guscott

Clive Woodward says he has the "skeleton" of his first England side in mind, but Jeremy Guscott's absence has deprived the coach of the backbone he badly wanted. Chris Hewett gauges the new regime's reaction to a serious body blow.

Gorgeous Gus was unusually up front about his injury situation yesterday, no evasion, no prevarication, no double talk. "I'm devastated," said England's midfield diamond. "When will we next see New Zealand, Australia and South Africa here over four consecutive weekends? I'd dearly love to play but realistically, I'm unavailable for selection.

That's that, then. Guscott's problem, a bulging disc in the lower back that prevents him from running at anything more than half pace, means Clive Woodward and his fellow selectors must reconsider their entire back-line strategy. Indeed, the coach owned up to as much before casting an educated eye over the remaining contenders during yesterday's training powwow at Bisham Abbey.

"A fit Jerry Guscott at the top of his form would have been in the side to play Australia next month and he'd have been picked at outside centre, which I regard as a key position if you're looking to play the game a certain way," he admitted. "We now have to reassess whether we can play the same game we were planning, whether there is someone like Jerry who can cope with the same sorts of demands. I'm not going to lose any sleep over it, though; this could have happened a couple of days before a Test or midway through a World Cup campaign."

All of which impacted on Woodward's earlier admission that he would be quite prepared to play the odd player out of position - or, at least, in a role other than the one he might perform at club level. "Nothing is out of the question. It's not easy asking players to chop and change but in some positions blind-side flanker and No 8 for instance, or stand-off and inside centre - it is less of a problem."

Interesting. What price Mike Catt. the Bath stand-off. filling the cavernous gap left by his mercurial club-mate? Woodward would not be drawn on specifics but his obvious willingness to explore every conceivable possibility throws open the exciting prospect of a brand new midfield axis.

Woodward was more forthcoming on his plans for a successful negotiation of this autumn's triple-header with the southern hemisphere invasion force. In effect, the 36 squad members will be a touring party in their own country, staying together for the four-week duration of the pre-Christmas international programme.

The All Blacks will play midweek matches against England A. England Emerging Players and an Allied Dunbar Premiership Select, but all three sides will be drawn from Woodward's squad. "I don't want' people sitting on a bench for a month," said the coach. "They'll all get a chance to play."



Now you can help us choose. Because England, the home of the world's greatest sport, is about to become the permanent venue for the International Football Hall Of Fame, backed by the Independent and the Professional Footballers' Association. And we need you to decide which of the game's heroes should be first to be inducted.

Over the next few weeks with your help, we will pick the best 25 of all time to be inaugurated in November in the official Hall Of Fame. To qualify, your pick must have played for his country and have retired for

So get voting now. What we need you to do is nominate up to four players for election to the Hall Of Fame. Simply follow the instructions on the right.

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• A nomination must be sent to the Official Voting Form, by telephone to a registered number, or via the Internet

istered number, or via the Internet.

• Voting ends on Sunday November 9, 1997.

The five players with most nominations will automatically be elected.

• A Setection Committee made up of seven retired players from different countries, with a chairman from the PFA, will draw up a short list of 60 players from those who receive most votes. This list is given to a pancl of football journalists, chaired by the Mirror's Harry Harris. Each will choose a top 20. The 20 players who receive most votes. 20. The 20 players who receive most votes will be elexed.

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ers for the International wish you may select only name. Hall of Fame, you have one, but FOUR is the the chance to make maximum. Select up to FOUR votes and four four players, noting down votes ONLY. Remember their code numbers and

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RALLYING

McRae wins thanks to Liatti's 'lateness'

Colin McRae completed an extraordinary comeback yesterday when he won the Rally of Italy in San Remo and kept alive his challenge for the world championship thanks to Subaru team orders.

McRae, world champion in 1995, finished ahead even though his Subaru team-mate. Italy's Pierro Liatti, came home first. Liatti was given a 10-secheing told to do so by his Liatti's overall time, with the

penalty added, was 4hr 8min 31sec, leaving him six seconds behind the triumphant Scot. McRae finished the final stage with an overall time of 4:08.25.

The world championship leader, Tommi Makinen of Finond penalty for arriving late at subishi to retain his comfortable would not be where I am now."

the final service check-in after lead in the title race. He now has 56 points, nine more than Spain's Carlos Sainz, who was fourth for Ford.

McRae is third with 42 points with two rounds of this year's 14-round series remain ing. "It is going to be very tough to win the title because I am go-ing to need a lot more than just luck from now on." McRae land, came in third for Mit- said. "If it wasn't for Pierro, I

CRICKET

Taylor begins the season with a century

Australia's Test captain, Mark Taylor, hit an unbeaten century on the opening day of the Sheffield Shield season yes-

He scored 116 not out as New South Wales reached 290 for 3 at close of play against the Shield champions, Queensland, at Brisbanc's Gabba Ground.

In Adelaide, visitors Tasmania laboured to 264 for 8 against South Australia, Michael Di Venuto celebrating his selection for Australia's

one-day side by scoring 68. At the Gabba, Taylor shared an unbroken 186-run partnership for the fourth wicket with fellow Test batsman Michael Bevan, who scored 104 not out. But all-rounder Steve Waugh, whose appointment as Australia's one-day captain on Tuesday almost certainly means an end to Taylor's international K.

limited-overs career, missed out. Waugh was run out for 11 when he slipped in trying to recover his ground.

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Central Park carrying Whatcombe confidence

Saturday's Dewhurst Stakes promises to point to who will win the 2,000 Guineas in 1998.

Paul Cole, the trainer, believes he has a colt capable of winning both races. Richard Edmondson reports.

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Inquiry

ef quits

It was in the Dewhurst Stakes of 1990 that the winner gloriously lived up to his name. Generous, the flowing chestnut, was returned at 50-1 for his grateful followers.

Such a price seems ludicrous now that we are able to employ hindsight. Paul Cole's colt went on to win a Derby and a King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes as he made an early application for the horse of the decade laurels.

Seven years on there is another flaxen figure emerging from Whatcombe to do battle in the juvenile play-off. Central Park, too, may he overpriced (his trainer certainly thinks so) as he goes into a first Saturday Dewhurst,

Central Park, is going for a fourth consecutive victory and Xaar, France's Prix de la Salamandre winner, are both preferred in the betting. Yet a form line through Docksider, whom Central Park beat comfortably at Goodwood, makes Cole's representative at least as good a borse as Daggers Drawn. In addition, the Goodwood third. Little Indian, has since gone on to capture the Group Three Solario Stakes.

Central Park has already detonated one huge reputation. when beating Cape Verdi in the Chesham Stakes at Royal As-

cort, and was denied the chance of spoiling another when a blood disorder prevented him competing in the National Stakes won by King Of Kings. THe land a mild infection and when we bland-tested him before the race in Ireland he was Daggers Drawn, who, like in the recovery stage," Cole said

NEWMARKET

2.05: HERTTAGE has been a beat-

en lavourité on both runs since he

won convincingly at Royal Ascot.

But this colt is expected to make

amends this autumn. Better Offer,

unlucky in running when finishing

fourth last time out, seems sure by

reach the frame, while Soin Mio

showed considerable improvement

2.35: PERSIANO was beaten less

than three lengths when fourth of

17 to Sky Rocket at Nortingham, the

on this track last month.

ىتد

morning. He's in top form and I'm pleased with him.

"Him and Generous are completely different horses so you can't really compare them. Generous was nn his way back after a big disappointment, blowing out at Deauville [when 11th of 12 belond Hector Provesterday, "But he's back now tector in the Prix Morny), so and worked really well this this horse is following a total-

HYPERION'S

TV TIPS

ing stages and is likely to make a

hold bid in his lirst auting in hand-

icup company. The stable is in

form. Dernier Croise bucks dan-

genus among those drawn low.

3.10: This sprint handican, won by

ly different route. He's going to be a mile plus horse in time and some of those in there on Saturday might be seven for long horses, pure and simple. We're taking it bit by bit, but I suppose if he wins the Dewhurst, then, yes, he will go for the Guineas."

Saturday softenings will also include guest performances

looks exceptionally tricky. A last car-

by pace can be expected from Trice

As Sharp and Tadeo, but it seems

best to rely on one that will be held

up to deliver a late challenge.

ANSELLMAN has been in excellen

beart of late and this seven-year-old

grey is likely to be picking up the leaders on the climb to the linish.

His capable rider's 5th claim could

well prove invaluable. Crofters

Ceilidh, the mount of Seb Sanders.

is another in fine lettle - but it may

be significant that Frankie Delburi

has been booked for stablemate The

Lady & at too form and has the draw by the far side rail

Gay Fm.

Sham. The former will gallop before racing as part of his preparation for the Breeders' Cup, while Bosra Sham, last year's winner of the Champion Stakes, will parade as part of her tinal public appearance. This year's Champion will see Willie Ryan attempt to repeat his Durby success on John Gos-

3.40: Another fiercely contested event and puoters should note that the bookmakers had a "skinner" 12 months again when a 50-1 shot work John Gosden is invariably among the winners at this time of year and he siddles Mount Holly. This lightly raced three-year-old may well show improvement on his latest run. which was his first outing since May. The one to be on though, would seem in he CONSORT: though his ndes are unlikely to be generous. Amanda Perreu's runner was sec-

ond in a valuable 22-runner hand-

icap at Ascot three weeks ago.

from Singspiel and Bosra den's Benny The Dip. With Frankie Dettori committed to Slowaway and the French champion Olivier Peslier on André Fabre's Loup Sauvage. Ryan was yesterday confirmed as the Benny's partner.

Saturday's bejewelled card also includes the Cesarewitch and has persuaded the course executive to refer to their events, rather grandly, as Champions Day. This has entailed asset-stripping the other cards at the meeting and today's events at Headquarters could quite easily be labelled Mediocre Day. Channel 4 televise four races, four of which

are handicaps. With an average field of 24, this is a day when stakes should be limited to the stuff you find down the back of the sofa. Ce-

3.10 Newmarket 14-1 15-1 16-1 14-1 The Puzzler 16.1 20-1 20-1 20-1 Indian Spark 40-1 40-1 40-1 33-1 Bonelet Ross D-1 11-1 21-3 31 Double Solandour 16-1 14-1 14-1 16-1 Bold Effort 2-1 14-1 2-1 14-1 Croters Culton 14-1 14-1 14-1 12-1 Dancathenighteausy 9-1 6-1 6-1 8-1 Gaglic Storm 7-1 7-1 6-1 7-1 Hello Mister 20-1 20-1 15-1 16-1 Surprise Mission 7-1 7-1 7-1 7-1 Telico As Sterp 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Lago Di Varano 4-1 14-1 16-1 14-1 March Crutter 91 81 14-1 11-1 Reportory 6-1 20-1 20-1 16-1 nan 91 81 B1 10-1 The Goy Fox 14-1 14-1 11-1 16-1 Ursa Major 50-1 50-1 50-1 50-1 Each way, a quarter the ories, places 1, 2, 3, 4 C - Coral H - Wilson Hill L - Lactoroless T - Total

up, while Crofters Ceilidh (3.10) is due a win and is com-

ing to the boil at the right time. Dancing Wolf Inext best 2.35) could be well in on her Kempton third to Refined. MASTER BEVELED (nap

NEWMARKET

1.30 Ringteader

2.0S Heritage 2.35 PERSIANO (nap)

HYPERION 3.40 Consort (nb)

4.15 Baffin Bay 4.50 Santiltana

3.10 Ansellman GOING: Straight Course - Good to Soft, Remainder Good. STALLS: All races far side. DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

OHAW AUVANTAGE: None

■ Right-hand course with Im2f straight.

■ Course is SW of fown on A1304. Bus link from Cembridge and Newmarket stations.

ADMISSION: Cab £8-25 (16 to 25-year-olds £8): Grandstand & Paddock £5-£12 (16 to 25-year-olds £6): Silver Ring £3-£5. CAR PARIC: Frea.

■ LEADING TRIANERS: H Cecil 45-187 (241%), J Gooden 29-192 (151%), 8 Hills 24-209 (15%), R Hannon 23-342 (67%), L Cumanti 21-166 (12.7%)

■ LEADING JOCKEYS: L Dettort 53-363 (146%), M Hills 28-263 (106%), R Hills 24-186 (12.7%) (12.9%) J. Roid 24-272 (8.8%), T. Culturi 21-281 (75%)

Fervourities: 217-571 (32.3%),
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Mr Miyagi (130), Celestial Chair (205) (visored), Sara Moon Class-

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U VICKY JAZZ (85) (Nrs Victoria Goodman) 3 5 Moois o o... - 30 declared -- 30 declared BETTING: B-1 Superchief, 9-1 Ringdeader, Blue Zola, 10-1 Oh So Easy, 12-1 Mannora Bay, Tom Dougel, 14-1 Arm And A Leg. Hive Fairles, 19-1 others
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The State was MADDARS SCALES

1998: Fiver Of Fortune 2.7.13 R Mullen (7) 7-2 fav (M Rompions) drawn (25) 27 ran FORM GUIDE

White beets MADAME JONES is the fively winner of this 30-runner select. Two who must be closely watched in the market are William Hugges' newcomer Primary Colours and Chris Dwyer's Shindfium, who has Kieren Fallon aboard on her first start eince showing promise in April Another tricky one to assess is Resurrection, who has done nothing in two starts since an encouraging debut at Salasbury over today's trip. Brian Meetten field harrowly with Princess Of Hierita in the race last year and Meatame Jones has twice finished behind stablerrates from three starts - Bermutide Boy at Salasbury and thrid to Institute is labed to the Goodwood last time. Site also went well in the soft at Heydook when third to Cassay way at Goodwood last time. Site also went well in the soft at Heydook when third to Cassay Cae in a claimer. Last year's winning jockey Pichard Mullen takes Site off of Bus Cassay. Cae in a claimer. Last year's winning jockey Pichard Mullen takes Site off of Bus Cassay way at she first puts to seems held by Medame Jones at Goodwood at Bevertey. Fingleweder again that the binners on and would have a fine chance in this grade on his third (without the headgean) to Country Garden and Hujom in a runsery at Assot. On So Easey, a stablemate of Madame Jones, has some form and could be suited by this first run over a longer trip. Frankie Fair, short of room in a runsery last time, is an interesting Notes Jarvis number in a seller, and imputative Decision has been crying out for this Seventh furlang number in a seller, and imputative Decision has been crying out for this Seventh furlang and can be given a squeek with Dean McKeown booked. Selection: MADAME JONES

2.05 FAKENHAM RATED STAKES (HANDICAP) C4

was not given a hard time in the close a 25-1 musider last year, once again

-2006 PRESENT ARMS (USA) (41] (D) (494 Parcu Fatrd Salment P Cole 49 7 T Outm B 96
20-104 BETTER DIFFER (16) (D) (Lody Hamson) Mr. A Prott 5 81
20-104 BETTER DIFFER (16) (D) (Lody Hamson) Mr. A Prott 5 81
2007 WILLE CONOURER (16) (CD) (Raymont Gody) if Alebrard 5 92
2007 A Clark 19 96
2010 THE DILETTANTI (USA) (12) (C) (Duke of Devershrey J Totar 4 91
2011 S Sanders 14
2012 OANCE SO SUITE (16) (D) (Ray Life Salm) P Cole 5 91
2013 OANCE SO SUITE (16) (D) (RET) LI Saldray P Cole 5 91
2014 OANCE SO SUITE (16) (D) (RET) LI Saldray P Cole 5 91
2015 OSCO MIO (16) (CD) (Notic Salv) 8146 3 8 TO.
2016 ASAS (128) (C) Plantists Al Mathematical During 3 5 T2
2017 ASAS (128) (C) Plantists Al Mathematical During 3 5 T2
2018 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (D) (Mats Carde Syles) J Life 7 8 T0 Sent J Feature 12 V 68
2018 SALDRA (12) (Mats Carde Syles) J Life 7 8 T0 Sent J Feature 12 V 68
2018 FORZA PIGLIO (16) (Grd Thomaghared Reamy Partnership R Alestrat 4 5 8
2019 HERITAGE (42) (D) (84) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 HERITAGE (42) (D) (84) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (Figliciers Thomaghared Reamy Lid) J Gosden 3 5 7
2010 CELESTIAL CHOIR (B) (Lid) (Mathematical Choir Mathematical Choir Ch

1998: Wille Conquer 4 8 7 9 Senders 6-1 (R Alshurst) craim (4) 10 ran FORM GUIDE.

John Gosden saved HERITAGE from the heavy ground at Ascot less Sauurday and the wait can be rewarded on this more substitutes surface. Harriage looked the type to progress when he landed the King George V Hendicap at Royal Accot and the form was given a brinsty boost when the second Saunt won at Ascot less Fritials. Sold altie may well progress again on this ground (he won his maden at Both with cut) after its win here to days ago. Pushed clear after leading two out, Solo Mo meets the third Dence So Sulte on 7th worse terms, Forze Figlia, (bourth) 8th and Papua (sixth) 9th Aerteon Pata, a winner at muddy Goodwood last month, is a threat with a low weight after his staying-on third to Marsul at hisydock. Celeatial Cholir less a 3th pensity for bearing Hoh Express at York last week and the hardy mane is always difficult to beat when she his form and on this type of ground. Along with Forza Figlia, Reg Alshurst goes with last year's winner Willia Conquer, who has 9th more to carry, and the former Tom Jones-trained thand, who shaped well behind Sandrinor Chembray at Epsom (Present Ansas behind famil, effort the lay-oft. On farm anat with Better Offer, it seems as though Willia Conquer has improved since last year and he was hampered at Ascot fest time.

		NGK SPARK PLUGS NURSERY HANDICAP C4 (CLASS C) £8,000 added 2YO 67
	25	NGK SPARK PLUGS MUNSERT TOURSTONE CA
16	,JO	(CLASS C) £8,000 added 2YO 67
<u>-</u>		CONTRACTOR IN THE PART OF THE
1.		
2	eu/	MICLEAR DEBATE (USA) (14) (BF) (JR Crester) Mrs J Parredon 8 8 J Portuge 10 91
3		BLUE KITE (16) (T Charles) N Lebracian B 4
4	225361	BUE RICE (16) (1 Carron in Community School 2
5	52302	PREMIUM PURSUIT (20) (D) (I C Parsore) R Falley 9 2
8	50%	LADY CHAPLOTTE (17) (D) (Luceyer Saud) D Execute 82
7	0523	OCH PERM CONTRACTOR PAR GEOGRAP F. K. MICH M. PERMEN D. III
ġ	635	THE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTOR AND
ă	ATT A F.OM	CHETOMETO COMISE CER CON NA DE PLANCE LER E MAN EL TRACE DE LO DE COMISE DE LA COMISE DEL COMISE DE LA COMISE DEL COMISE DE LA COMISE DE LA COMISE DE LA COMISE DEL COMISE DE LA COMISE DEL COMISE DE LA COMISE DEL C
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12	2004	LE NACCED MAN Storeton Al Market Till C HOUSE ED DO
13	004	PERSIANO (12) Mass A Crusto J Farebase 65
H	504	DICHALORG (8) (C) Prior Prose Lodge Partnerships, M Britain 8.2. O Morrough (7) 1 107
15	W3245	EXCEPTION (A)
16	468	SARA MOON CLASSIC (23) (Highgrove Developments Limited) K McAuthle 7 S
77	2630	MEANS BUSINESS (46) (Thurbe Thomptones 2) 8 Montan 7 2

FORM GUIDE

Nuclear Debate was the selection here a fortright ago, but the minimum trip found him out in the race won by Biss His form with Halmahera (Comwalls winner last Saturday) on the July course looks better at the time and Nuclear Debate is sure to do better to day over the sixth furbring. But there are some progressive types gotting the weight, no-

by PERSIANO and Danning Wolf Fersiano is sure to like the ground and was a credible four its to the potentially high-closs Sky Rocket or Nothingham lost time. Dancing Wolf form a good family and high today's parmer John Reid aboard when she ran a fire time Reined and Mrs. Mollaprop (easy winner at Catteriok next time) at Jempion on her third are (Lady Charlotte seventh and a winner since). Inchallong is very hough and made are (Lady Charlotte seventh and a winner since). Inchallong is very hough and made lectal from fight hand at York, though today is No.1 stati could prove a handrage. Unspecial they find hand at York, though today is No.1 stati could prove a handrage. Unspecial to the York Inchallong is not represent the North Report of the North Report o

-	7 2 2. 10	<i>4 2</i>
3	.10	OLIVIER DOUIEB MEMORIAL RATED STAKES C4 (HANDICAP) (CLASS B) £14,000 added 51
1		WAREA NIN (TO . 4 D Count 1) Innection 4 9 7
2	-	THE REPORT OF THE PART OF A PART OF THE PA
3 ·		
7	WYM	ROWNERS ROSE (13) (C) (D) (C) (S) (S) (S) (C) (D) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C) (C
•		O Sweeney (3) 1 B 57
5	540003	O Sweeney (018 57) DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (29) (Nortistres Roung Club Owness 1990) P Refeat 7 92
		The same of the sa
6	054D40	SOURCE SPECIAL (FR) (25) (A.) Retrecky K. Currangers Brown 5.91 K. Pelton 5.9.10 (10) SOURCE SPECIAL (FR) (25) (A.) Retrecky K. Currangers Brown 5.91 K. Pelton 5.9.10 (10) SOURCE SPECIAL (FR) (10) SOURCE SPECIAL (
7	200632	CHOFTERS CELICH (18) (D) (Ars Vary Messings) B Metheron 5 8 1 8 Sanders 4 107
6	-	SAME THE PROPERTY AND ADDRESS OF THE PROPERTY
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12	290900	THE COURSE OF THE PROPERTY OF
15		A LAS IN UNDANO MIS ATT OPEN THE PART (MISSELE DE L'ASSELLE DE L'ASSEL
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ñ		ACTURED TO ME DE CAMPONE LES TRACES LE L'ACTURE DESCRICTE LE
16	***	ALIENS CALAD DE PORT INCIDENT DE VINSORTI LI EDITO (B / DE DESCRIPTI DE CONTROL
17		
16	-70000	LIRSA MAJOR (19) (Kon Bloke) P Kellowery 5 8 7
-0		_ 18 rectares
		The Control of the Department According to 18th 18th

- 18 declaraid - Minimum weight: Bit 7th. True handicup weights: The Gay Fox 8st 6th, Repentory, Anseithen Bit 5th, Ursa

Minimum weight 8st 7b. True handrop weights: The Gay Fox 8st 6th, Repertory, Antalanna 8st 5st, under 8st 4th.

BETTING: 7-1 Guelic Storm, Surprise Mission, 8-1 Bowden Rose, Carcethrolythrenty, 10-1 Annelment, 11-1 Trides As Sherp, 12-1 Bold Etion, Crothers Callish, March Crossoder, 14-1 Lago Di Verano,
Tadao, 14-1 Doubit Spiendour, Repertory, The Gay Fox, 2n-1 Hallo Matter, The Puzzler, 25-1 others
19stic Monight Ecrope 3 6 12 N Carlols 25-1 (IC Wall) stamt 201 22 res
FORM, GUIDE!

Dencethrenightsway revelled in the testing ground when he hold off Anserlianan at Ascot tast Saturday. There should be enough give in the ground for him today and he is only
a pound worse with both Ansertmen and Repertory (fourth). Euryrise Mission floundared
in the ground in tifth at Ascot and a 350 put on this better surface gives him overy hope.
But the in-form mans BOWDEIN ROSE is the choice on her fourth to Techurow at Ascot
(Maillo Misses fifth and Turkce As Sharip humped at the stam) and a Neumandar winner
since with Dancetherightsway finding the ground too fast in saith and new 3th better off.
Twice As Sharip had Surprise Mission in fourth when he won at York in May. This looks a
nee he could go case in. The Gay Fox won a small race on the July couse in June and
could go well with Frankie Detron booked and a good draw, Selection: BOWDEIN BOSE

3	.40	MILCARS HANDICAP (CLASS D) 58,000 added C4]
-	Obvioci	YAUTA (25) (D) fund Werestock R Charlesh 49 13	97
2			
3			
•			
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6			
7	4-0000	CYBERTECHOLOGY (11) (D) (W.J. Gredley) 9 His 3 9 7	90
8	250140	CAREMIEC BENTOCA (11) In the proceeding the about 10 to	
9	1-2300	NO MORE PRESSURE (134) (D) (Paul Green) Mrs J Remeden 3 0 8	200
		The same of the sa	100
10	06-500	POLAR ECLIPSE (5) UR Good) 8 Montan 494	-
11			
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23	502032	COMANCHE COMPANION (18) (D) theres Recing Cuto) T J Nasofron 7 8 8	_
24	325030	COMANCIE COMPRISION (18) (D) PENS INC. OC. 1 TO THE A CLIEN 15	R
		Dad Selder 1	9

3.40) is getting on a bit but he lestial Choir (2.05) is a hit has come down in the weights eoigmatic hut last week's York winner has the ability to follow and will like the easing ground.

BETTING: 8-1 Mount Holly, 10-1 Consort, Sitk St John, 11-1 Master Bevelled, 12-1 Jay-Chre-Firet, 14-1 Yalfa, 10-1 Green Prosec, Inflandmann, No More Pressure, Pericles, Young Procedent, Refuse To Lose, Sachtach, 20-1 others
1998: Sattando 5 7 8 Mann Dayer 5/ 50-1 (Pat Michel) drawn (10) 10 mn
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1998: Sattando 5 7 8 Mann Dayer 6/ 50-1 (Pat Michel) drawn (10) 10 mn
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	Strong	y Man	HAT BEVOLDE IS DROWN IN THIS WITH SHIP I DECISION OF THE PARTY OF THE
	4.1	5	EBF CHESTERTON MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £9,000 added 2YO 1m Penalty Value £8,334
	_		L MOUNT
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	11	55	and the control of the state of the production of the control of t
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	13		
	14	2	LEMON BROUSE, (Martin Mysels 3 7 ms 90 ms 19 ms 90 ms 19 ms
	14		PALIATI (USA) (Lord Howard De Walden) Mr. J Cool 00
	16	0	
	17		SCORNED (GER) (George Strawbridge) Balding 9 0
	18	36	SHERSANZAR (16) (Articiny Schonicu) M Salamen 90 Dene O'Nettl 12
	19		
	20		LA ROCHELLE (Sevent Marrare) C Britain 89 J Fortune 9
	21	40	SASSY LADY (12) (The Belect Nowmentet Partnersho) C Duner 89
	23		SASSY LAUY (12) (116) SERIC TAMMENTON TO TRANSCRIPT SERIOR
	23		TARTAN LASS (Neithers Breeding and Paras); H Chest 6 3
•			- 23 DRAMES -
ε	BETT	NG: 4	1 Beffin Bay, 5-1 Albertshin, 6-1 High And Mighty, 6-1 Eagle's Cross, 10-1 Free Option vs. 12-1 Berling Cities, Generous Burtes, 16-1 Others

Reliabow Ways, 12-1 Berlog Callet, Esenerous Norths, 16-1 Octobre 1995: Royal Crusado (USA) 29 0 B Doylo 11-2 (W Hoppian) chawn (14) 17 ran

PORM GUIDE
A newcomer kinded this lest year and Godolphin's Albarahin is the one most likely to den A newcomer senoral rest ace year and isocoperans Asserant is the one most likely to tent the reputation of BERING GIFTS. A Saver Hawk cut, out of a Mr Prispactor mere who was a stakes wither at this trip in America, Albertahin promises to be smart. Paul Cole rease highly Bering Gifts, who failed to cope with the bad ground at York behind Saratoga Springs. He was entered for all the top races and is given the chance to show his true worth today, Helmhow Weys is nicely bred by Rambow Quest out of the smart Savaay, belief in restatish terration for the smart Savaay. to the is a contain improver after his excelent staying-on second to Henry Cocials Berm on firster ground at Leicoster. Cocials newcomer for this, Battin, Bary, is a sloubly-bred son of Bustine and Belly to come into his own heat year. Eagle's Cross looks ready to appreciate the ground and must be held in some legard to take on winners on his debut at Kempton – the point singly well in fourth to Mowbray. There is sometiming to the about John Reid inding for Henry Candy on the Generous coll Generous Farms, who comes from an obstantions farmly.

4.50 SEVERALS CONDITIONS STAKES (CLASS B) £12,000 added 1m 2f Penalty Value £7,954

CATTERICK

HYPERION 2.10 Refined 2.45 Palmetto Bay 3.20 Back Row 3.50 Crystal Hills 4.25 La Tiziana 5.00 Tappeto 5.30 Obsessed

5.30 Obsessed
GOING: Good to Soft (Good in places).
STALLS: Inside.
DRAW ADVANTAGE: None.

■ Let-hand course, undusting and sharp. Not suitable for the long-striding horse. Run-in 240yds.
■ Course is NW of town or A6336. Derlington station 14m - bus service to course. ADMINSTON: Club 5m; Tattanells £7; Course service to course. ADMINSTON: Club 5m; Tattanells £7; Course \$250 lunder 195 free into all enclosures). GAR PARIX: Free.
■ LEADING THANKERS: J Berry 27-200 (135%), B Hills 20-55 (364%), Mirs M Revelley 20-112 (179%) if Johnston 16-100 (15%) ■ LEADING JOCKEYS: K Derley 30-122 (197%), I Carroll 28-176 (159%), I. Charmock 15-155 (97%) G Outfleld 8-70 (114%).
■ Favourities: 208-515 (404%)
VISORED FIRST TIME: Savu See (3.20).

2.10 OCTOBER NURSERY HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2YO 5f

— 10 opportus —
Min weight: 7st 70tb. Time hicap weights. Makehu Don 7st 2tb, Dépois 6st 11tb.

SETTING: 3-1 Refined, 4-1 kis May, 9-2 Ivory's Joy, 5-1 Carol Singer, 11-2 Secondiff, 10-1 Bala, 14-1 Walt'n'see, Sunimersest, 32-1 others

2.45 EBF RIPLEY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV I) £4,050 added 2YO 61

3.20 NORTHALLERTON RATING RELATED MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS F) 53,300 added 3YO 1m 4f

RESTLE AND COLORS | Colored | Co

BETTING: 7-2 Back Row, 4-1 Predech, 11-2 Arietty, 6-1 Arietty, 7-1 Balfour Lady, 10-1 Alekder, Monaco, Mourtaineer, 25-1 others

3.50 DARLINGTON HANDICAP (CLASS D) 2 £4,900 added 3YD 1m 7f 177yds 3

ZETLAND AUCTION MAIDEN STAKES 4.25 (CLASS E) \$4,025 added 2YO 71 fillies

5.00 HDRNBY CASTLE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 4f SCORED BREAK THE ROLES (14) (D) (BP) D Notols 59 71...

5 36100 HASTA LA VISTA (10) (CD) M W Excision 7 5 8 ...

9 262-05 HOUSE OF DREAMS (9) G M Moore 5 6 8 ... J Charon 5 10 34572 RECORTION (20) P Calver 4 6 5 ... J Descript 5 10 4000 BARANOV (20) P Alurrey Smith 4 9 5 ... J Whitworth 7 2 0-0000 DOEAN STREAM (28) J L Byte 4 6 4 ... R Lappin 8 3 45-000 MHITLEY GRANGE BOY (19) J L Byte 4 7 ISL Charmoch 12 15 02250 KEEP BATTLING (15) (D) J Colbe 7 7 2 ... A Mexicay 18 0 600 SAUNGER (77) (CD) J Parkes 8 7 10 ... N Carrisle 15 0000 SWINGER (77) (CD) J Parkes 8 7 10 ... N Karnsedy 17 00000 SWINGER (77) (CD) J Parkes 8 7 10 ... N Karnsedy 17 00000 SWINGER (77) (CD) J Parkes 8 7 10 ... N Karnsedy 17 00000 SWINGER (77) (CD) J Parkes 8 7 10 ... N Karnsedy 17 00000 SWINGER CHARLES (32) J Helherton 3 7 10 ... J Lowe 18 Allerians weight: 7et 10to 7 he handlesp with the Sallinger 7st 450, Alcohology 12b, Swynford Charmer 6st 85.

BETTING: 5-1 Gold Destre, 7-1 Riccarton, 8-1 Pietro Baraton, 10-1 Tappeto, Westminister, Haete La Viola, Keep Bettling, 12-1 others

5.30 EBF RIPLEY MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) (DIV II) E4,050 added 2YO 61

-9 Obstantel -SETTING: 4-7 Obscored, 9-2 MHzh Panel, 10-1 Anditz, 14-1 Polish Pilot, 15-1 Detroit City, 20-1 Dengerus Precedent, 25-1 others

Minimum weight: 10st True hendicap weight: Nocksciente Set 7fb. BETTING: 5-2 Unimate Smoothie, 3-1 Pride Of Keetralt, 4-1 Causal Water, 7-1 Courageons Knight, 10-1 Rosettalt, 12 Sport Of Fools, 14 others.

4.35 SEFLO IODINE NOVICE CHASE (CLASS E) £4,200 added 2m 110yds 22-55 ALL CLEAR (13) (CD) R Aher 5 10 12 P Holley OFFI CAMBRAKO'S LAD (856) R Aher 5 10 12 A Thornton 350-5 GREEN GREEN DESERT (33)(D)(BF) O Sherwood 6 10 21

All Clear, 12-1 Steri Guns, 25-1 Cambrano's Land. 5.10 HYDROXYLAMINE STANDARD NH FLAT (CLASS H) £1,500 edded 2m 1f

1 LATTH MISTRESS (27) (D) P Nichols 5 Ti 6.1. Customins (5) CO. A VERSE TO ORDER (146) Miss P White 6 Ti 4... R Johnson DOOR TO DOOR C Brooks 5 7: 4 _______ J Cabone KORLE ATHLETE Mrs J Pittran 5 11 4 ______ G Hogan (3) UNIVARITED C Brooks 5 11 4 _____ C Rather (7 OND DOVE FROM ABOVE (18) R J Price 4 11 3 ____ A Magnin GSILY'S CROSS R Bucker 4 11 3 ______ A P McCoy

RACING RESULTS

HAYDOCK

HAYDOCK

2.00: 1. TOPATORI (D Biggs) 10-1; 2. Top
Jem 9-2; 3. Sunny lole 8-1, 13 ran. 5-2 fav
Karakia. 11/4, 1/4, (M Tompkins, Newmarker).
Total: C7730; 23:40, 21:70, 23:00 DF: 523:20
CSF: E54 34. Tineast: E366.77. Trio: E143:30.
2-30: 1. RAINWAYCH (J Pisk) 6-1; 2.
State Febr 10-1; 3. Medicitis Militaire 8-1
7 ran. 2-1 fav Pottarf (5th) 2-0, 10; J Outtop, Arundel). Total: C32:0, C190, C3:30. DF:
2030. CSF: 252:00.
3.00: 1. ALLJMRSTYAH (M Hills) 18-1; 2.
First Matte 20-1; 3. Dark Mile 5-1; 4. Sarino
2-1; 22 ran. 9-2 fav Mary Magchalene 2-1,
1, 11/4. (R Armstrong, Newmarket). Total:
223:00: 53:30, 17:30, 22-30, 22-50. DF:
224:02: 05F: 233:397. Triesst: 51,78:31 Trios:
22-10: CSF: 74:38.
4.00: 1. Dark Mile 10 total: 2-50. DF:
22-10: CSF: 74:38.
4.00: 1. Dark Mile 10 total: 2-50. DF:
250:40: CSF: 22-10. Trio: 534-30 (part vcn).
4.30: 1. SastaDilLa (L Dettori) 5-1; 2. Shaddens 6-4 fav; 3. Reggin Back 9-1.
Fran. 3. 13. (J Gooden, Newmarket). Total:
2500: 5170. E10: C2-40. DF: 2-430: CSF:
27:207. Trio: 51070. NR: Prinia.
5.00: 1. Stil/PREME ANGEL (D Holland).
11-2; 2. Chansy Clao 4-1 fav; 3. Guitz Masster 4-1, 12 ran. Ni, 2 (M Muggerotipe, Newbury). Total: 2508: 2528. 2560, 2520. DF:
21480. CSF: 22863. Trioast: 229102. Trio:
21480. CSF: 22863. Trioast: 229

14680. Jackpot: \$10,88790 (part won; pool of \$13,828.37 carried forward to Newmarket topot: £28550. Quadpot: £2730. NOTTINGHAM

NOT TINGSTARM
2.10: 1. MEDDLE EAST (F Sprake) 13-2
co fee; 2. Supreme Thought 14-1; 3.
Aleafen 2-1.19 ran. 13-2 co fee Mêre's Double (4th), Mybotye (8th), Hd, %. (F Barron, Thirsk), Tole: \$\text{CFD}\$, \$\text{CAS}\$, \$\text{CAS won). NR: Nervous Rev. 2.40: 1, DECISIVE ACTION (T Quinn) 12-1; 2. Jepsim 7-1; 3. Wedi 5-6 tax 13 ran-4.6's. (P Cole, Whatcombe). Tote: £2190; £330, £210, £150, DF: £4640, CSF: £8228.

3.10: 1, CORNICHE (T Quinn) 11-10 fav: 3.10:1, CORNICHE (I Curin) 11-10 181. 2. Edwarden 20-1; 3. El El 11-1, 12 rm. 511-hd, 2. (P Cole, Whatcombe) Tota: 5120: 5130, 5230, 5230, 57: £2360, CSF: 52369. Trio: £7880, 3.40: 1, SOVEREIGNS COURT (K Fal-

3.40: 1. SOVEREIGNS COURT (K Fallon) 4-1 fay, 2. Welcome Heights 6-1; 3.
Doc Ryan's 6-1 fle ran. 6; ½, (L Cottrel,
Culompion) Yola: 2350; 5160, 5230, 5270.
DF: C1320, CSF: C2319, Those: C2154, Thio:
C1880. NR: Clouds Hill, Star of RingAuthorato (12-1) withdrawn not under orders.
Rule 4 applies to all best, declust 5p in 5.
410: 1. BRIGHISTONE (A McSicne) 7-2
fay, 2. Scartaban 4-1; 3. Dispot Diamond
33-1. 17 ran. Shi-hd, ½, (M Pipe, Weifington) Tote: C370; C200, C450, C750, DF: C750.
CSF: C4687 Thio: C3200, NR: Effavescence.
440: 1. NICON COLONY (Paul Eddery)
5-1; 2. Royal Crown evens fay, 3. Toil Toil
12-1. 18 ran. Hd, 8. (Lady Herries, Littlehampton), Tote: C300; S320, C100, Su00, DF:
2680, CSF: C116. Thio: 25590.

B.10: 1. THEME ARENA (M Henry) 9-1;
2. City Hall 5-1; 3. Contrarie 4-1 fav. 14
rim. 11/4, 31/s. (M Pipe), Totes \$10,30; 52:10,
52:20, C3:00. DF: C2:50. CSF: E50:25. Tincst: \$1688. Tinc: £98:30. NRs: Random Kindness, Ranger Stoans, Tommy Kintolisa.
5.40: 1. WAVE ROCK (M Rimmer) 4-1;
2. Jamorin Dancer 100-50 fav; 3. Casalno Aren 7-2. 11 rain. Nk. 21/s. (J Durlop Artunde) Totes £460; £10, £150, £150, DF: £2.70.
CSF: £15.35. Tinc: £13.40 NR. Danzig Flyer.
Wern Not Stoppin.
Placepot: £14.30. Quadopot: £3.20
Place 8: £2017. Place 5: £480.
WETHEREY

Pisce 8: E2017. Pisce 5: 17.81.

WETHERBY
2.20: 1. NOPERUL LORD (A S Smith)
15-1; 2. Country Orchid 4-7 fav. 3. Allas
Chubb 40-1 13 ran. 7, 19. (P Cheesbrough).
Tote: £18.30; £13.0; £19.0; £8.00. DF: £18.90.
CSF: £25.12. Thio: £84.40
2.00: 1. \$IONARCH'S PURSUIT (I, Wee)
7-2; 2. Dutas Bay 10-1; 3. Leviticus 8-11 lav.
10 ran. 7, 10. (T Easterby). Tyte: £54.9; £140.
£212.£10. DF: £23.90; CSF: £31.98, Inc. £380.

RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Consort (Newmarket 3.40) NB: Twice As Sharp

3.20: 1. TOSKANO (Mr S Durack) 9-1: 3.20: 1. TOSKANO (MT S LOSSANO ST. 2. Maybo O'Grady 9-1; S. Little Tracture 6-1.11 ran. 52 fav Lapton. 6, 21. (D Willerne). Tota: £380: £2.70, £2.70, £190. DF: £32.20. CSF: £7785. Tricast: £48402. Tho: £32.90. 2.50: 1. BESTONE IN Willernson). 56 fav. 2.50: 1. BESTIONE (N Willerrent) 5-6 fav.; 2. Sprath Royal V-1; 3. Spanish Light 5-1. 6 ran. 17, 27. (K Bailey), Totle: 5170; 5130. 5450. DF: 5190. CSF: 51078.
4.20: 1. WELSH MILL (P Niven) 3-1; 2. Secret Service 11-8 fav.; 3. Kernof 7-2, 4 ran. 7, 27. (Mrs M Reveley), Totle: 5280. DF: 5280. CSF: 5297. NR: Highbank. 4.50: 1. PHARRAMBLUNG (P Niver) 11-2; 2. Hi Marble 13-8 fav.; 3. Menald 6-1 11 ran. 10, 11, (Mrs M Reveley), Totle: 5530; 5160. 5170. 5190. DF: 5170. CSF: £1468 Tincast: 5547. Tho: 5780. Quadpot: 55700. Place 5: \$4704 Place 5: \$3004.

	THE INDEP	END	ENT	
	RACING S	ERVI	CES	
	U891 4	(D)	+ ESULTS	
	NEWMARKET	971	981	
	CATTERICK	972	982	
-	TAUNTON	973	983	
	ALL COURSE 0891 26	<u> 1 97</u>	75 70	
	CATTERICK TAUNTON ALL COURSE	972 973 5 RESU	982 983	

TAUNTON

1.45 Le Grand Gousier 2.20 Woodstock Wanderer 2.55 Danger Baby 3.30 Royal Action 4.00 Ultimate Smoothle 4.35 Euro Singer 5.10 Mite

GOING: Streight - Good to Firm.

Gight-hand course, Run-in of 150yds.
Course is S of town on BS170. Reunton station 2m. ADMISSION:
Members C11: Paddock C9; Shver Ring 55. CAR PARK: C3 in cen-Members LTI: Patricox Ltd, caret hat 21. Section 771 runners gives or of course; tree parking establish.

● LEADING TRANCERS: M Pipe - 32 winners from 771 runners gives a success ratio of %7%, P Hobbs 21-89 (23.6%), R Hodges 15-40 (27.7%), N Henderston 7-32 (21.9%).

● LEADING JOCKEYS: D Stridgwaler - 15 wins, 98 rides (77.4%), A P McCoy 14-85 (16.5%), J Oatsonse 12-39 (30.8%), M A Fitzgerald 9-75 (23.3%).

10-75 [13.3%]
• FAVOURITES: 134 wins. 366 (9009 [366%)
BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Supercharmer (145).

1.45 HYDRAZINE NOVICE CLAIMING HURDLE (CLASS G) \$2,500 added 3YO 2m ff GEORDIE LAD (#23) J S Moore 10 8

ACHAPTASS (I) \$22,500 addGed 3YU 2m1 Tf

UAPS SOUTHERN CHIEF (17) W G M Turner 18 ... J Power (*) B

SOUTHERN CHIEF (17) W G M Turner 18 ... J Power (*) B

APICIONADO (#13) R Hodges 10 11

APICIONADO (#12) J Sannet 10 11

ACHAPTAS (*) J S Moore 10 8

P BLISH (19) M Pipe 10 8

C Maude

SUPERCHARMER (F25) R Judies 105 _____ Gary Lyons B KAYZEE (F16) D Burchell 103 _____ D J Burchell 8 GROVEFAIR DANCER (5) F Yardey 100 _____ B Feston BETTING: 3-1 Le Grand Gounier, 7-2 Gray Peatel, 9-2 Southern Chief, 7-1 Sovereign, 8-1 Afficianado, Aquevita, 10-1 Blomb, 25-1 others GADOLINIUM SELLING HANDICAP HUR-

DLE (CLASS G) £2,375 added 2m 1f 2 0045 STAPLEFORD LADY (8) (0) J S Moore 9 11 11 W McFarland 10-PO3 KELING TINE (7) (3) D Burchall 6 11 2 ______ D J Burchall 050-6 LAURA LYZ (85) (CO) B Do Heart 7 11 2 ______ Oscome

BETTING: 9-4 Northern Drums, 3-1 Listin Hoofigan, 7-1 Woodshock Wi derer, 10-1 Staphetord Ledy, Leura Lys, 12-1 Amboyhili, 14-1 others

2.55 LANSDOWNE CHEMICAL HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS D) £5,500 added 3m 1 324-11 DANGER BARY (12) (D) P Sone 1 Til 13 A P MacCoy H 2
2 12/31 DECYBORG (FB) (141) M Ppo 6 11 9. C Manufe 3
3 744P STRONG TRADUEN (222) (D) P Noticle 7 11 9 T J Marphy 4
4 22/1F ARAWARD (26) R Prost 8 11 4 J Prost 6
5 022PO AMOTHER COURSE (128) C Manufe 30 2 Searaclough 7
6 P3PP-6 L'UOMO PRU (19) (CD) À Barrow 13 100 Mic Photi (1) 8

3.30 RESORCINOL NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) \$3,500 edded 2m 1f

Horse, Two Socks, 10-1 Mirense, 12-1 Lowicers, 14-1 others 4.00 CAVENDISH TECHNOLOGY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS E) £4,250 2m 3f 110yd

Calls and Stepper remote 13.5 plc, Scretture 9. IC

Global fame leaves beret-wearing Jordan unable to lose himself in France

There was a time when basketball superstar Michael lordan would visit Paris for the fun of it and sit in pavement cafés unrecognised. No more. John Lichfield reports from the French capital.

Michael Jordan would like to announce that he is not God.

The best known sportsman in the world is in Paris, making his first competitive visit to Europe in five years. He turned up for the introductory press conference yesterday, wearing a Chicago Bulls track suit and a targe, black French beret. "When you're in France, do as the French do," he explained, just about keeping a straight face. "This is kind of my French look."

in France - certainly no one under 30 wears a beret any more. They wear basehall hats; and Michael Jordan basketball trainers; and, in many cases, Michael Jordan T-shirts.

Jordan, 34, has been to Paris before, lots of times. He visited twice to play basketball, as a young man, before he was the best-loved and hest-paid sportsman in the global village. Until a few years ago. he explained, he used to come back "every other year" because it was one of the few places he could disappear. "I could just sit down outside some restaurant and not be bothered. Basketball has grown so hig, it is hard for me to go anywhere now."

In the pouring rain outside the Bercy stadium yesterday, a large group of French youngsters pleaded with the security man to let them in, to have one peep at their answer was, rather rudely, no.

Later, Jordan was asked what it was like to be mistaken for God. "I'm not a god. I consider myself as an eotertainer. I play basketball and take joy in what I do. For a couple of hours I can carry people away from whatever else is going on in their lives. That is all. I entertain. I certainly don't consider myself as a god."

Jordan is, however, one of those rare sportsmen whose fame transcends their sport. The global success of basicetball can partly be explained by the urbanisation of the world: basketball, an intense, claustrophobic sport, is an urban game par excellence. But the global success is also partly down to the charisma and skill of Michael Jordan.

He is in Paris with the Chicago Bulls five times National Baskethall Asso-

Except, of course, that hardly anyone idol in training. Since this was France, the ciation champions in the last seven years - to play in the McDonald's championship against Greek, Spanish, Italian and French clubs. The Bulls' first game is tomorrow night. Before leaving the US, Jordan had been quoted as saying that this would be a chance for Chicago to turn oo the style, away from the competitive pressures of the NBA. His comments irritated same of the European players. They said that, on the contrary, this was the real "world championship" not the purely American challenge of the

> Jordan was smoothly diplomatic on this point yesterday. He said that, judging by the European players coming to perform in the US, the European game had made "enormous progress". Offensively, he said, European players no longer had much too learn from the US; defensively

they still had some way to go. As for the "world championship", he said the Bulls could beat any opposition, European or American, "if we play the game the way we know how". He did not see the absence of the other great Bulls' stars - Scottie Pippen (foot injury) and Denis Rodman (bronchitis) - as a serious problem.

Jordan was asked about rumours that he intended to retire (for the second time) at the end of the forthcoming NBA season. It was up to the Chicago Bulls, he said. If they felt the time had come to rebuild the team with younger players and a new coach. then "it will be time for me to move on". A new coach would want to introduce

been through that before and f don't want to go through that again".

new approaches and new rhythms. I've

Jordan has brought his family with him and intends to do some sightseeing, even



Michael Jordan at the Photograph: AP

if his pavement café days are over. He hoped, he said at one point, to "take in the Louge". He presumably meant to say the Louvre. Unless...

Michael Jordan has already tried golf and baseball, with mixed success. Is he planning to move on to winter sports? That really would be a story.

The self-serving attitudes killing British athletics

The financial failure of the British Athletics Federation threatens the future of the sport in this country. Mike Rowbottom examines its collapse and suggests a way forward.

As the three wise men from the insolvency practitioners picked through the wreckage of the British Athletic Federation's finances yesterday, two questions resonated in track and field circles.

How could Britain's most successful Olympic sport have got itself into such a dire situation? And where should it go from here?

The basic answer to the first query was spelt out on Tuesday by David Moorcroft, the newly installed BAF chief executive, who has seen what he understood to be a cash flow problem turn into the stuff of nightmares.

Falling sponsorship income, and lower levels of money in television rights have chipped away at the reserves of £1.2m that the Federation announced in 1994.

At the same time, costs have risen, due in part to legal fees incurred in defending the Federation against a claim for £500.000 in damages from Diane Modah) after her successful appeal against a doping ban.

Three years ago, the theo executive chairman of BAF, Peter Radford, emphasised the need for the Federation to diversify from its dependence upon television money and sponsorship for hig televised meetings.

That is something the Federation has signally failed to do. The most obvious, practical method of raising steady revenue is a registration scheme. Five or ten pounds per head per athlete per year. Net result to the sport: around two million pounds.

That sort of cash would have been more than handy right now. But such has been the resistance from the grass roots, and so archaic is the adminis-



Happier times: Linford Christie, Britain's team captain, celebrates after the men's victory in the European Cup in Munich in June - Britain's first win since 1989

trative system in British athletics, where all decisions have to be approved by an unwieldy 38strong council, that Radford and his fellow professionals could not institute the measure.

The institution of a registration scheme was on the agenda for informal discussions due to take place last night between the BAF, the Sports Council and the Amateur Athletic Association of England.

Many in the sport suspect that the latter body, which has never got along with the BAF, is waiting to occupy the power vacuum which has been created by BAF's insolvency.

The question of releasing some of the funds the AAA has accrued over the tast few years - more than £1m - is something which is currently exercising minds in the Sports Council, which holds the ultimate sanction of stopping the flow of National Lottery money into the

The Lottery panel have also made it clear in the past that they do not like handing over public money to organisations

with archaic administrations. Perhaps this traumatic time will offer the opportunity to transform the Council from being the sport's House of Com-

mons to its House of Lords - a measure which is long overdue. John Lister, who quit his

position as BAF treasurer 18 months ago, spoke yesterday about the crucial misjudgements made when the BAF assumed control of the sport in 1991.

"The fundamental clanger that was dropped came in the handover of responsibility for the sport from the Amateur Athletics Association to BAF," he said. "While the AAA agreed to surrender all responsibility for events, coaching, administration and international competition, they kept their reserve fund of around £3m.

"Not only that, they forced BAF to sign a contract that meant they took around 40 per cent of their profits. That meant that in the first three years of BAF's reign, when the money was still flowing in, the AAA took around £500,000 in

The problem was there was no will on the board of directors of BAF to face up to realities. It is a tragedy for the sport. The Federation has destroyed itself, and the problem is that you can't have any confidence in what is left behind in the shape

cash from them.

of the AAA of England. "As a body they have been

waiting for this to happen without being prepared to do anything to stop it. The only place to look for a new beginning now is to the Sports Council. If we are not careful we could be watching the death of athletics not only in Britain, but around the world."

The immediate problem is paying athletes for their competitive efforts this season, and guaranteeing events planned for next year. Channel 4, who have a £3.3m

contract to televise domestic athletics for the next four years, said yesterday they were monitoring the situation closely.

Another proposal which might yield dividends for the sport is the reformation of the current boundaries within the overall AAA. At the moment there are three arbitrary blocks: Northern, Midland and South. Splitting the sport into

smaller units could access new sources of income from regional development agencies. In the meantime, the BAF

staff are working a day at a time, waiting to hear if and when they will lose their jobs.

"If I was in the position now of deciding if 1 wished to be chief executive of BAF," Moorcroft said, "clearly I wouldn't." MOTOR RACING

Mosley urges Villeneuve to drop appeal

Max Mosley, the top administrator in motor sport, yesterday urged Jacques Villeneuve to . drop his appeal against disqualification at the Japanese Grand Prix.

Mosley, the president of the FIA, the international governing body of motor sport, warned that the Williams-Renault driver could be suspended for the season's final grand prix in Jerez. Spain, on Sunday week, giving the world title to his German rival, Michael Schumacher.

"There is a risk that Villeneuve could lose not only two points from Suzuka, but also be suspended for Jerez." he said:

"It would be a nightmare for Bernie Ecclestone [the head of , Formula One], but the court is independent," added Mosley, in a reference to the FIA's court of . appeal which is due to meet next Tuesday in Paris. "If Williams would withdraw their appeal, I can imagine that they would

stick to the two-points deduction. "I have sympathy for him [Villeneuve] and I understand that he wants to drive as fast as . possible, but I want to see him live after the end of his career. He endangered not only himself, but the stewards, who are vol-

unteers with families." Villeneuve was disqualified for ignoring waved yellow cantion flags during free practice while under a suspended ban for the same offence imposed at the Italian Grand Prix last month. He was allowed to race at Suzuka pending an appeal.

Villeneuve finished fifth in the race won for Ferrari by Schumacher, the French-Canadian's only rival for the title who has 78 points to Villeneuve's 79. ● The 38-year-old Austrian driver Gerhard Berger is to retire from Formula One after the final race of the season in Jerez, according to an Austrian newspaper. The Benetton-Renualt driver has won 10 grands prix

The short but amazing life of Hunter Mariners How can a club with few The trouble is that the spouded by refusing to lose, thus speaks volumes for the abilities Mariners are clinging stubgrafting a compelling storyline of Murray, the former Illawarfriends and no prospects

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be 80 minutes away from being recognised as the best rugby league team in the world?

the strange story of the Hunter Mariners, who meet Brisbane Broncos tomorrow in the final of the World Club Championship.

Dave Hadfield looks at

Millwall supporters used to boast, and probably still do, that "Nobody likes us. We don't care.

The case of the Hunter Mariners is subtly different. They have no supporters to speak of. Nobody wants them and they are positively thriving.

By rights, the club should have heen quietly put to sleep by now, at the end of its first season. It was only set up by Super League as a spoiler on the turf of one of the Australian Rugby League's hest-supported clubs, the Newcastle Knights.

The Mariners were a creation of war and they will be a casualty of peace, which could break out within the next few days.

bornly to their life-line, extending their season by first qualifying for the quarter-finals of the World Club Championship and then by beating Wigan and Cronulla to reach tomorrow's final against the

deserve to survive, but the most they can force is a stay of execution. One of the few things both sides of the hattle in Australia have been agreed upon is that there should only be one team in Newcastle. And that will be the Knights, who won the ARL's Grand Final for the first time last month. Ask the Hunter coach, Gra-

Brisbane Broncos in Auckland.

They have proved that they

ham Murray, how his club can compete and he shrugs his shoulders and says: "They had 100,000 people at a ticker-tape parade. You can't argue with that."

Unlike the Knights, the Mariners are largely unloved in their home town. They are more likely to have hricks thrown through their office windows than ticker-tape rained on them.

Yet, somehow, from this hopeless situation, they have found strength and inspiration. Every match could be their last on to the WCC. They might only have one season, but it is going to be one to remember.

Newcastle - the New South Wales one - might have miles of beach at the end of its main street and wine might have displaced coal as the major money-earner, but it is still a tough, working-class town that takes a fierce pride in its rugby league heritage.

Many of Australia's greatest players have come from the area, but until 1988 they generally had to move 100 miles down the coast to Sydney to make their names. So, when Newcastle got its own team in what was then the Winfield Cup almost a decade ago, it quickly went deep into the psyche of the place.

Having failed to persuade the Knights - and most particularly their former Great Britaio coach, Malcolm Reilly - to defect. Super League poached as many administrators and players as they could and planted the Mariners on their patch. As a move aimed primarily at damaging the Knights, it was bitterly resented in the town.

To have fashioned a winning rugby team out of such unpromising circumstances is a rera coach, who has proved their most important signing.

What he has had to work with is a handful of former Knights, like Brad Godden, Robbie McCormack and Paul Marquet, plus players who had signed for Super League and were not wanted elsewhere - like the Iro brothers, for instance.

The Mariners did not exactly sweep all before them - their WCC semi-final victory at Cronulla was their first away from home in Australia - but they beat all the big guns. Brishane, Cronulla, and Canberra, on their own ground,

It is in the WCC, coinciding as it has with peace moves that herald their doom, that they have come good. "They can't kill us off while we're still playing," says McCormack, and it is that incentive that has kept them alive.

There could even be life after death, with the idea already mooted that the Mariners could be moved, more or less intact, to Wales, Scotland or Melbourne for next season. There would be a lot of sense in launching a new franchise on the back of the sort of spirit that the Mariners have shown over the past few weeks, but Melif they lost it - so they have re- markable achievement and bourne already have a coach in

Chris Anderson and not all the Hunter players would welcome relocation across the globe.

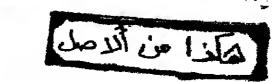
Tomorrow, therefore, is effectively their swan-song, win or lose: the end of a short but extraordinary life.

They will not go quietly; not with players like their young half-backs, Scott Hill and Brett Kimmorley, who have comhined so magically of late. Nor with the New Zealand looseforward, Tyran Smith, showing his true potential. Nor with a full-back of the calibre of Robbie Ross attacking from deep.

But, if Kevin Iro is absent. with a groin strain, it will further weaken an already dicey goalkicking department - and they are up against the best club side in the world.

Even without Allan Langer, who is also almost certain to miss the Tests against Great Britain, the Broncos are packed with talent, starting with their dazzling full-hack, Darren Lockyer, continuing through the world's best centre, Steve Renouf, and including forwards

as destructive as Gorden Tallis. The Mariners have no chance against that sort of firepower. But they had no chance against Wigan or Cronulla either. Logic has little part in it when a team shouldn't even exist.



FOOTBALL

United kids needed cup says Albiston

Alex Fergusoo could come to while Ben Thornley continued regret throwing away Manchester United's involvement in the Coca-Cola Cup, warns the former Manchester United defender Arthur Alhiston.

The Old Trafford manager could hardly hide his glec at get-Ting rid of what he feels is an unwanted domestic distraction as his side lost 2-0 at Ipswich.

But he introduced four new youngsters and Alhiston said: "It's unfortunate because the longer United had stayed in this cup the easier it would have been for Alex to introduce the young lads into the side.

"It's obviously difficult to bring untried youngsters into the Premiership and especially the European Champions' League. That wouldn't be fair to them.

They have got to get experience from somewhere so the Coca-Cola Cup is a good anenue for a club like United who have so many good youngsters to give them games."

John Curtis and Phil Mulane, a typically sparse-framed Trish teenager who has already who his first international cup. made their first appearances, his comeback frum a serious knee injury. Eric Nevland made a second-half appearance to complete the quartet.

It was early evocative of four seasons ago when Ferguson was criticised for fielding unknowns called Gary Neville, Paul Scholes, Nicky Butt, Keith Gillespie and David Beckham at Port Vale.

Now four of those are kingpins not only of the championship-dominating club team but for England's World Cup hid, while Gillespie is a Premiership player at Newcastle.

Who's to say we won't be talking of these lads in the same way in four years' time?" Alhision says, "United need to keep developing because you don't know what can happen in foothall with injuries or players getung transferred, so you need that conveyor belt to keep running.

"Everyone thinks very highly of Curtis as a defender while Multyne is a bit like Norman Whiteside in that he has already played for Northern Ireland before he's got into the United

"Thornley is the same age as the Beckhams and Nevilles but unfortunately got a bad knee injury, so it was good to see him back and have a good first half. He'll now be trying to eatch up with his mates.

"They will have got things from that, like playing in front of a crowd. Everything seems to happen that hit quicker after playing in front of a handful of spectators playing for the second team

"It's always difficult making your debut, especially away from home and playing for Manchester United because everyone wants to beat you.

"It's incredible to think back to that Port Vale game and what began for United. Maybe we'll be thinking the same about Curris and Mulryne in a few years too."

The lpswich game also allowed David May to begin his comeback with his first game of the season, but Ferguson will have been disappointed at the lightweight showings of Karel Poborsky and Jordi Cruyff while Andy Cole looks a player who is very short of confidence.



Manchester United's Phil Neville is grounded by the challenge of Mick Stockwell of Ipswich

Photograph: Allsport

Taylor's idea to keep players on right side of the taxman

The Professional Football Association's chief executive, Gordon Taylor, has called for a body to be set up within the sport to keep an eve on the game's

to the Inland Revenue's ongoing crackdown on unregistered payments to players. managers and agents. It is believed that 80 players in the last four years have cleared hills for unpaid tax, and that 29 of those have been this year as the Revenue's investigations have

Taylor wants the self-monitoring body set up to make sure foreign players has also pro-

reached fruition.

football's finances do not get into the same mess again, and believes it should involve the Football Association, the Premier League and the PFA.

According to Taylor many The idea comes in response . players have fallen foul of the taxman as they are young and without financial knowledge. "What has emerged is that, certainly in transfer dealings. clubs can intimidate players into doing things a certain way. That is why we would like a selfmonitoring body inside the game to keep a close eye on what goes on.

"The introduction of many

duced claims that cash is being paid into offshore accounts to avoid paying tax. Our advice to nur members is that they pay as you earn, and to take correct advice from accountants to avoid problems in the future."

Football has been immersed in scandals over illegal payments to players, clubs involved in tax evasion and the role of agents in transfers and is now high on the Revenue priority list.

A spokesman for the Revenue said: "Football has beeo under investigation for many years, far more than has been claimed recently. And all we are willing to say is that those in-

vestigations will be ongoing. Some clubs and players have come forward over the years. and their anonymity will always he protected. If anyone, in any walk of life, feels guilty and feels they have not been paying enough tax, we will be happy to talk to them."

لكذا من ألاصل

Taylor believes most of the problems have already been sorted out. "The union itself has set up a financial management unit staffed by ex-players who are qualified to give advice.

"I think that several clubs and players have learned their lesson over things that have happened in the past."

Hoddle's 'calm'

amid private

pressures

John Gorman, England's assistant manager, yesterday described how Glenn Hoddle remained calm in Italy last weekend despite the massive pressures oo his professiooal and private life.

Hoddle masterminded the plotting and planning that saw England secure the goalless draw in Rome which earned them a place at next summer's World Cup finals. All the time Hoddle was attempting to keep his players focused un the joh in hand, he knew that news uf the break-up of his marriage was about to emerge.

But Gurman, a close friend of Hoddle since their playing days at Spurs in the early 1980s. said that the coach had shown steely resolve all weekend.

"Glenn was so calm, much calmer than Cesare Maldini (fraly's coach), and that rubbed off on everybody." Gorman said. "Normally I'm really tense before a game, hut Glenn did everything to keep us all in the right frame. He's so calm, and did lots of things to keep the players as light-hearted as he

could, but focused as well. "When we were on the coach to the ground there were some little games we played to calm everybody down. Then be put on a tape of the best of English football, the past teams and the present one, all to stirring music. It geed everybody up, including me."

Gorman stressed that Hoddle's separation from his wife. Anne, was nothing to do with the pressures of the joh. and spoke of his sadness at the news. adding: "They are both close friends of mine,"

-- Martin Lipton

Italian call-up for Ravanelli

Fabrizio Ravanelli's season finally looks like getting started after he was called up by Italy for their World Cup play-off against Russia later this month.

"I'm very happy... I'm just sorry I'll miss Olympique Marseilles' trip to Bastia," the striker said, after being notified by fax of his inclusion by Italy's coach, Cesare Maldini

Ravanelli was not picked for Italy's 0-0 draw with England in Rome on Saturday and has seeo little action this season after deciding to leave relegated Middlesbrough. But he marked his Marseilles dehut at Rennes a week ago by laying on the first goal and scoring the second from a penalty after being brought down. He makes his home debut against the leaders, Metz tonight.

Italy meet Russia, second behind Bulgaria in Group Five, in a two-leg play-off away nn 29 October and at home on 15 November for a place in the finals

Wenger takes chance to unveil his side for future

Arsène Wenger has told the 27.000 Arsenal fans who backed his decision to field virtually a reserve team in the Coca-Cola Cup on Tuesday night: "I ve given vou a glimpse of the future."

Highbury's French managinsists a key motivation in his oh is to leave behind a sound basis for Arsenal success way past the millennium, no matter how long he stays at the club himself. And the line-up he selected to beat the First Division side Birmingham 4-1 to earn a place in the cup's last 16 could be the one that will regularly perform to the Premiership in three years' time.

Wenger rested front-line players such as Dennis Bergkamp, Tony Adams, Ian Wright and David Seaman and said: "I picked a team that I was convinced would win the game even though I did become a hit scared at half-time when we were 1-0 down.

"I also wanted to show the supporters that we have many fine young players and that the future of the team is very healthy. We want to win the Coca-Cola Cup even though there is now no European place at the end of it, but the competition also means a chance to give players who are not usually in the team some important experience."

Although Arsenal offered funds on tickets to fans dissatisfied at the prospect of watching a largely unrecognisable team that contained six debut-makers, 27,097 turned up nn a cold, wet night.

"The supporters were very good and lifted the young players," said Wenger, "but I don't know now what sort of team I will field in the next round. We will have to wait and see what the other fixtures are at around that time and what players are available."

Wenger might have to dip into his reserve resources again as soon as Saturday for the Premiership trip to Crystal Palace. Marc Overmars, his £7m winger who has been troubled all season by an ankle injury, aggravated the problem playing in the Netherlands' goalless World Cup qualifier with Turkey last weekend. Luis Boa Morte, the 20-year-old Portuguese winger from Sporting Lisbon, is standing by for his first League start after scoring

twice against Birmingham. The French midfielder Emmanuel Petit is almost certain to be out even though a bone scan has ended Arsenal's fears that he had broken an ankle playing in a friendly against

South Africa nn Saturday. Wenger will choose between David Platt and Stephen Hughes as a replacement, but Ray Parlour and Patrick Vieira also need to shake off injuries in time for Saturday.

Marriott makes move for Welsh goalkeeping spot

Andy Marriott wants to leave Second Division Wrexham to improve his chances of becoming Wales' first-choice goalkeeper, Marriott, voted Wales' club-

man of the year last week after his role in Wrexham's run to the FA Cup sixth round last season, woo his first full international cap on his 27th hirthday in the World Cup defeat by Belgium in Brussels on Saturday.

And with veteran Neville Southall probably at the end of his resord-breaking 92 interministicap career the bate tle is on between Marriott and Southamptoo's Paul Jones to replace the Everton player.

Marriott believes that the only way he will establish himself in Bobby Gould's squad will he if he moves from the Racecourse Ground to a higger eluh. "I have two years of my contract left, but I am on the transfer list," he said.

"It's nothing against Wrexham, but I feel that if I am to progress and continue to play for Wales, I must get away. There have been a few clubs watching me, but I don't know of any approaches or even what Wrexham want for me."

The former Arsenal and Nottingham Forest goalkeeper has played for England Under-21's, but qualifies for Wales because his grandmother was born in Bangor.

Elliott faces long wait on sidelines Robbie Elliott is facing up to gets and then be let down. the doctors are very happy of the season. Last season spending the rest of the season. That just puts pressure on with the way it's going at the Steve Stooe ruptured knee ligoo the sidelines.

likely to play again before May sure you just don't need." after he broke his right leg in the beginning of last month.

Elliott joined Bolton during the summer in a then club record £2.5m move from his home-town club, Newcastle United, but io his fourth game he was carried off after a col-

lision with Tony Thomas. "I was really enjoying myself until that night," he said. "I was looking forward to having a full season, which I have not had yet, and then this happens.

"The doctors have said I won't be back until oext season. although there's a slight chance I could be back before then. But I don't want to set myself tar-

yourself to get back for a cermoment," The Bolton full-back is un- tain date or game and it's pres-

Elliott, 23, who spent 19 days two places against Everton at in hospital after the injury, said he has made progress. "They put me in plaster on the Monday night when I arrived." he said. "They were going to change it within a few days, but with the bones being in line, they did not want to move

> them. "Eventually after two weeks they added more to my original plaster, but I found it heavy and it was difficult to get about. I then got a lighter one and I'm much more mobile now. This plaster will be on for another two months at least to give the bones the chance to knit together. They are still in line and

The former England Un-

der-21 international claimed he could cope with oot always being in the starting line-up at St James' Park, but he hates watching Bolton from the

"At Newcastle I got quite used to sitting on the bench for some reason," he said. "But now I'm finding it much barder to watch games. I've been keeping away from the training ground, but I do find it difficult when I go to the ground on match days. It's hard just looking on because I want to be out

Bolton's form has not been the best since Elliott was injured and they have not won in the League since the opening day got to get on with recovering."

aments early in the campaign and when he returned to action, Nottingham Forest were playthough, does not think he will suffer the same fate.

"I've no doubts about that," he said, "We've not had the best of luck with injuries and it's just a case of hanging in there until everyone gets back.

"We have a great squad here now and we just need a little hit of luck to win our first home game in the League." Elliott admitted boredom was a problem, hut he was

able to do weight training, and he has been busy moving house. "It's difficult and it's the most serious injury I've had, but

I can't just mope about and I've

SPORTING DIGEST

Badminton

5.5

Badminton
Scotland will host the European
Championships in the year 2000.
Yesterday's announcement comes
only four months after Glasgow
staged the largest event in the history of badminton, the 68-nation World
Chempionships. The European Championships will be based at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Sport Centre, as
will next month's Scottish International
Championships (20-23 November).

Baseball

ATIONAL LEAGUE Championship SeCATIONAL LEAGUE Championship SeCATIONAL LEAGUE Championship Series win

***Est-Of-seven series 4-2, will lace winner of
American League Championship Series in
bast-Of-seven World Series beginning in Mibast-Of-seven World Series beginning in Mi-

Bowts BUPA CARE HOMES OPEN CHAMPI-ONSHIP (Presson Guild Half) Second round: HOuff (Sco) bit N Booth (rifl 7-1 4-7 7-6; R Corale (Sco) bit N Burkett (SA) 7-4 6-7 7-2; J Price (Wal) bit A Alcock (Eng) 7-07-3

Boxing Boxing
Simingham's Robert McCracken has rejected a proposel to delay his European middleweight title fight against the champlon, Hassine Cherifi of France, until the new year. The contest is also a final estrainator for the World Boxing Council world middleweight title, and must be staged in France by 15 December.

ireland's Darren Corbett, 25, will face Puerto Rica's Hector Sanjumo in Connecticut tomorrow in his first fight

since being forced out of his Com-monwealth title defence against Rob Norton because of an anide injury. Charles Shepherd will make a voluntary defence of his British super-feath-enweight title against Matt Brown on Frank Maloney's Elephant and Cas-tle Leisure Centre promotion on 8 No-

Prancis Ampolo replaces Scutland's injured defending bantamweight chempion Drew Docherty in a British and Componwealth contest against the holder of both titles, Paul Lloyd, at Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester, on 25 October. Cricket

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (First day of foor): Brisbane: New South Walss 230 for 3 (M A Taylo: 116no, M 13 Bevsn 104no) v Queene-

tend. Adelaids: Termania 254 for 8 (M J DI Verano 55) v South Australia. PRESIDENTS' CUP TRI-NATIONS TOUR-NAMENT (Natrobl): Bangladesh 100 (412 overs); Kenya 102 to 2 (17 overs). Kenya ston by eight wickets. Football

Port Vele made a record profit of more than £900,000 in the lest financial year, but still owe the bank £750,000. However, the accounts do not include the £15m Vele received from the sale of the bank £15m Vele received from the sale of Jon McCarthy to Birmingham City

Jon McCarthy to Eimingham City. PIFA WORLD RANKINGS Leading posi-tions: 1 Brazil 72 Spts. 2 Sptin 63.21, 3 Gar-many 63.03. 4 Casch Republic 6187, 6 Pomanis 6187, 6 Denmart. 6085, 7 Singland 6085, 8 Notand (9) 6059, 9 Pussas 5001, 10 Mexico 5984; 11 Colombia 9561, 12 Norway 5845, 13 Angertins 5809, 14 France 5736. 15 Morocco 57.85, 16 Italy 57.56, 17 Sweden 5732, 16 Bulgaria 5876, 19 Zambia 5807, 20 Japan 5601, Selected: 25 Scotland 29 54.23, 25 Australia (50) 52.33. 43 Instand (56) 4733. 75 Northam Instand (64) 3730, 36 Weiss (60) 9305

The European Ryder Cup player Lee Westwood will play in the Australian Open in Melbourne from 27 to 30 Noember. The 24-year-old, seventh on the current European Order of Mar it, will join the world No 1 Greg Nor-men, America's Phil Mickelson and the newly crowned World Metch Play champion, Vijay Singh of Fil.

SIX-NATION CHAMPIONS TROPHY: Spein 5 (Sanchez B, Arreu 11, 35, Arret 65, Escure 66) Netherlands 2 (Reun de Nochez 82, 34); Germany 3 (Bechmann 8, Beherbaum 18, Domise 22) South Korsa 1 (Seong Tee Song 5), Laading positions: 1 Austrelia (Pd, Pts 8); 2 Germany (4-7); 3 Soein G-6.

ice hockey NHL: Detroit 3 Toronto 2; Pittsburgh 1 New York Rangers 0; Dalas 5 Calgary 4 (ot).

Slight switches to racing on four wheels at Donington Park on Sunday

in the RAC Tourist Trophy. Slight, who sealed third place overall in the Su-perbike championship in the final round in Indonesia last Sunday, will be making his British Touring Car debut in a two-litre Honda Accord at the Leicestarshire circuit.

Rallying
SAN REMO RALLY Leading final positions:
1 C McFleer (GS) Subaru 4fr 8min 25sec; 2
P Lists (th) Suberu 4:053; 31 Neisition (Fn)
Mtsubish 4:06:37: 4 Carlos Sainz (Sp) Ford
4:06:39; 5 F Los: (Be) Toyeta 4:06:5; 6 J
Karikumen (Fn) Ford 4:05:8; 7 A Aghini (t)
Toyeta 4:11:03; 8 O Auriol (Fn) Foyota 4:11:58;
9 O Odrafi (t) Subaru 4:17:44; 10 H Rovenpers (Fn) Sest 4:24:37. Rugby League

Rugby Football Leegue officials are to consider reverting to two divisions in 1998. The RFL Council decreed last month that any changes would not come into effect until 1999, but the newly reconstituted board of directors have asked Super League abuse to examine the possibility of strapping three divisions with immediate effect. Martin Crompton, Oktham Bears' scrum-half and captain, has joined Salford Reds on a two-year contract. Barrow and Cartisle have agreed to

a merger to form a new club based in Barrow: Barrow Border Raiders. The Rugby Football League has appointed policy director Nell Tunnicitite as its new deputy chief executive. The RFL has also appointed four associ-ate directors, including former Wigan player Joe Lydon, to help form a new operational board responsible for running the day-to-day affairs of the professional game.

first hul-time coach - even though he is in his fourth season in charge at the cub. The chairman, David Watting, said: "It is reductous having part-time staff with full-time players

committee, following his citing by Cross Keys for an incident during their National League Division One match on 20 September. Metrose, the Scottish Tennants Velvet Metrose, the SCOREST remains reveal. Cup holders, were yesterday given a home match against Glerrothee on their entry into this year's competition. The draw for the third round brought in the 30 Premiership clubs for the first

In the 30 Premiership clubs for the first time, with tearns from the top two divisions seeded. The matches are to be played on Sunday 9th November, scornish trendents very Select of Sodern, kinnes v Kelso, Gespor Hawls of Sodern, kinnes v Kelso, Gespor Hawls of Sodern, kinnes v Kelso, Gespor Hawls v Cumberauld, Boyr v Hiller County, Dundee HSP v Stewerth-Mehille, Boroughmur v Liningson, Wignenshire v Wetsonishs, Melitae HSP v Stewerth-Mehille, Boroughmur v Liningson, Wignenshire v Wetsonishs, Melitae v Glenrothes, Dunfermiline v Kritokity, Meditese College FP v Kinnsmock Faltons, Gordinans v Presion Lodge FP, Jed-Forest v Lochabe, Haddingson v Hawlis, Musselburgh v Cumnoid, St Boewells v Edinburgh Asademkas, Gele v Hawlch Trades, Dabel v Durs, Fluidrik v Straffendrick Albox v Aberdeen GSFP, Corstophine v Linithgow, Larghdim v Forester FR, East Kibride v Sewarty, Trity Academics v Periods, Grangemouth v Durshine, Hutchesons'-Albystims v Annan, Murraythal Wanderers v Aberdeensite, Germock v Hamitton Academics, Gleegow Southerm v RAF Lossiemouth.

Sailing A burst of speed by Paul Cayerd on EF Language has increased his lead over second-placed Metit Cup to 68 miles on the first leg of the Whitbread Round the World Hace. Fully balasted and reefed down in wind gusting to 35 knots. EF Languege has been averaging 17 knots with Cayard reporting that at lest he had experienced his first teste of the Witbread PACE. his "first teste of the Whitbread".

WHITBREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (Kitat leg, 7,350 miles, Southampton to Cape Rown) Latest positions: 1 EF Language (Swe) P Cayard 1872 miles to firsh; 2 Merit Cup (Mon) G Datton +68 miles; 3 Innovation Nearmer (Nor) K Froeted +80; 4 Six Cut (GB) L Smith +253; 5 Chessie Racing (IS) M Fischer +3515; 6 Americas Chesenga (US) R Field +480; 7 Toshibe (US) C Diction +462; 8 Swedish Metch (Swe) G Krenze +497; 9 EF Education (Swe) G Krenze +497; 9 EF Education (Swe) G Guillou +76; 10 Brunel Sunergy (Neth) H Bouscheha +863.

Snooker GRAND PRDK (Bournemouth) First round:

1 Greens (Eng) bt J Perry (Eng) 5-4; P
Wykas (Eng) bt K Broughton (Eng) 5-2; D
Burnett (Soo) bt Richardson (Eng) 6-2; O
Dete (Maj) bt K Burrows (Eng) 5-; T Shaw
(Eng) bt J Michie (Eng) 5-3; B Jones (Eng)
bt S Ali (Pati) 5-2; W Jones (Wal) bt M
Dziewiattowski (Soo) 5-2.

SQUASTI
WOMEN'S WORLD CHAMPINAISHIP (Sydney) First round: 8 Winglin (Eng) bit T Wester (Aus.) 10.9-9.5 9-7; P Bearms (NZ) bit N Tippest (Aus.) 9.3-9-8.9-7; L Inving (Aus.) bit N Zein (Eng) 9-3-9-6.9-0; N Grainger (SA) bit P Pancis (Aus.) 9-3-9-8.9-4, F Gerves (Eng) bit V Cardwell (Aus.) 5-0-9-4.9-4; S Homer (Eng) bit E Major (Aus.) 6-1-9-3-9-7; S Fizz-Gerstd (Aus.) bit N Meneu (So) 9-1-9-0; R Cooper (Aus.) bit S Cook (NZ) 6-7-9-4 (ns).

Tennis CZECH INDOOR MEN'S ATP TOURNA-MENT (Costsva) First round: S Bruguera (Sp) bt P Lusa (Cz. Rep) 6-2 6-3; 6 Nan-seric (Croe) bt J Semernik (Nett) 5-7 6-3 6-3; T Muster (Aut) bt P Kralert (Cz Rep) 6-1 6-3, Second round: K Kucera (Stovek) bt K Carlsen (Den) 6-3 6-7 7-6; 8 Ulimani (Cz Rep) bt M Rosset (Swit) 6-3 6-2; J No-vak (Cz Rep) bt CMoya (Sp) 8-4 6-4. LYON GRAND PRIX MEN'S TOURNA-MENT (Fr) First round: T Engvisi (Swe) bt

FIXTURES

Football 7.30 unless stated

7.90 unless stated
PONTINS (LAGUE Premier Division: Branchan v Bagidburn (7.5); Shelf Wed v Everton (70); Stole v Tranmere (70); et Neucusto Zour); Finst Division: Grinsby v Coventry (70); Middle-brough v Port Valle (70). Third Division: Hull v Doncaster (70).
AVON INSURANCE COURBINATION First Division: CPR v Arsens (70) (at Harrow Borough); Vertord v Brighton (70) (at Northwood); Tottlerinern v Norwich (20) (at Spars Lodge, Chigweli).

Other sports GOLF: Alired During Cup (St Andrews). TENNIS: LTA Women's Challenger S Schalken (Noth) 4-6 6-3 6-3; F Santoro (Fr) bt C Van Garsse (Bel) 6-3 6-2; M-K Goelner (Ger) bt A Boetsch (Fr) 7-5 6-2.

WOMEN'S EUROPEAN INDOOR CHAMIPONSHIPS (Zurich) Singles, second round; J Nouchas (Cz Plep) bt A Sugyana (Japan) 6-0 6-7 6-2; K Klenova (Cz Plep) bt I Spites (Rom) 3-6 5-1 ret.

LTA WOMEN'S CHALLENGER (Southampton) Singles, first round; O Barabanschikova (Bela) bt J Pullin (GB) 6-2 6-1; K Cross (GB) bt M Lamarre (Fr) 6-1 7-6; M Schnitzer (Ger) bt 3 Smith (GB) 5-7-6-3 7-6; E Koulliovsleys (Flus) bt A Janes (GB) 5-2 4-6 6-4; E Tatarixon (Jikr) bt E Lott (Fr) 6-3 8-3; L Courtols (Be) bt M Babel (Gar) 6-0 7-6; E Cuntichet (Fr) bt S Frazeres (Por) 6-2 6-2; O Lugine (Ulir) bt J Ward (GB) 7-6 6-1

Weightlifting Chinese women weightlitters broke more world records in the National more world records in the Naportal Games in Shanghal yesterday. In the 70kg category, Sun Tiannis combined total lift was 272.5kg while Lei Li took the title in the 64kg class with 260kg, also a record. Chinese women lifters have now broken all 18 world records in the six events at the Games so far.

TODAY'S NUMBER

33

The number of seconds, after coming on as a substitute, that it took Arsenal's Jason Crowe to be sent off in Tuesday's Coca-Cola Cup tie against Birmingham City. It was the quickest dismissal on record in senior British football for a player making his debut.

FOOTBALL RESULTS

Tescerciay
UEFA CUP First round second leg replay:
Spartak Moscow 5 Sion (Swit) 1 (Spartak Moscow 6 Fion aggregate and meet Real Valuable in second round).
ITALIAN CUP Third round first leg: Atsianta 3 Bologra 1 Tuesday

Tuesday

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE Float Division: Haddersfield 0 Chariton 3 (Mendonce 15, Brown 69, Robanson 75). Second Division: Bristol Rowers 1 (Permice 83) Validod 2 (Kannady 62, Rosentias) peri 80. 69. Hours 1 (Permot 63) Wattlend 2 (Kannedy 62, Rosenthal pert 80).
COCA-COLA CUP Third round: Argenti 4 (Boa Morte 62 108, Platt pen 69, Mendez 10). Bermingham 1 (Fely 20), felbor size hings: Barnsley 1 (Liddle 26) Southempton 2 (Le Tissier 15, Dewes 68); Betton 2 (Pollock 9), Meditister og 94 Windbilder 0 (eeu), Grinstey 3 (Liddle 63, Lumpston 72, 73) Leicester 1 (Misshall 17); Isswich 2 (Mathe 3, Tartico 45) Manchetter 1 (Info Codord Utd 1) (Beauchamp 79, Transee 9, 1 (Kelly 34) (sect. Celord win 6-5 on parallies); Rescing 4 (Williams og 33, Partimon 34, Masier 145, McPherson 56, Wolvigs 2 (Bull 44, 57); Walsall 2 (Messon 56, Tier og 87) Sheffield Utd 1 (Borbotos 48).
SCOTTISH COCA-COLA CUP Semi-fineti Ourlemine 0 Celic 1 (Burlay 70) (in those Park). FA CUP Taird qualifytigs round replayed Arnold 0 Winstand D (sect. Winstand Ivon 8-5 on perabos); Reddicth 0 Halescuen Town 3; Celtre 1 Besingstoke 2.

INNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Division: Burgers Hill 4 Chichester 1, Petcainzren & Teistrombe 0 Pagham 2, Pedral 2 Whitehack 0, John O'Hare Liaque Cup finst retent: Time Bridges 1 Ringmer 2.

ARKOTT INSURANCE NOPITHERN LEAGUE Print Chiefon: Ballington 18 Ballington Rown 1 Special 1 Seafram Red Sur 1; Billington Rown 1 Special 2 Seafram Red Sur 1; Billington Rown 1 Special 2 Annotation 2, NOPITHERN COUNTIES EAST Lasque Promise Division: Hudernal 6 Hattlets Moon 1; Liversadge 1 Gassimughton 4, Meithy 2 Ossett Town 1; Ossett Ablon 3 Ecologiel 0; Pickering 3 Dessity 1, JENSOM BASTERN LEAGUE Premise Division: By City 2 Haton 2; Great Yarmouth 4 Claston 3 MATIONWING BRISH GOLD CUP Section At Sel-

ey CRY 2 Preton 2; Great Yermouth 4 Cescoth 3 MATDONWIDE RESH GOLD CLIP Section At Bul-tyclere 2 Dungarron Selfas Q, Ballyviere 1 Ge-reson 1; Lerne 1 Chaeden 2 Section B: Ards Lindeld 5; Barrgor 2 Limandly 0; Distillery 3 Col-eration 1, Section C; Newry 2 Genturen 1; Chiligh 2 Carriot 2. Z Usertick Z.
PDN77NS LEAGUE First Division: Note Country 2 Marchaster City 0. Second Division: Bradford City 1 Bacippoil 4 Tord City 1 Bestippol 4
AVON INSURANCE CONFISNATION First Divialon: Cystai Palece 0 Wintblodon 2, Wilwell 0
Southempton 2, West Ham 0 Portsmouth 2,
GERBANN LEAGUE: VL. Wolfaburg 1 Warder Braman 0; Bourses Dottmund 0 Bayer Leverlasten
1; Cologne 0 Schalles 04 2; Nerfris Berlin 2 VIL
Bochum 2, Hamburg 3 Kurtenine 1
SUTICH LEAGUE: Weendam 0 Farture Stand 2:
Groningen 2 William I Tiburg 2; Fayempord 2 MVV
Alexanders 1

RESERVET 1. EDANISH LIFERIUM: Mellorce () Sercelore 1.

The World Superbike rider Aaron

Rugby Union Newport have made Steve Jones their

The Durwent prop Richard Llewellyn has been banned for two matches by the Welsh Rugby Union's disciplinary

Le Tissier's race to be part of Hoddle's plan

Matthew Le Tissier is back among the goals but knows he still has a long way to go before returning to Glenn Hoddle's World Cup squad. Martin Lipton on a realistic Saint.

Matt Le Tissier yesterday conceded he is a few lengths behind the field in the most important race of his career. But the Southampton player finally feels be is under starter's orders.

And after proving just what he can bring to England's World Cup party at Barnsley last night, the Channel Islander is convinced he can come from behind to claim a place in Glenn Hoddle's thinking.

"It's a start," said Le Tissier of his wonder volley that saw him flick the ball over Arjan de Zeeuw before crashing in from 25 yards. "But there will have to be a few more of them before the season's out to convince the manager that I'm worth a place.

"As far as I'm concerned it's up to me to show I deserve to force my way back in. There's a lot of players who have done well since I've been out. They've probably edged ahead of me in the pecking order. Now it's down to me to fight my way back."

Le Tissier's England fortunes have waned since Hoddle picked him for the home defeat by Italy, and a series of injuries meant he has not featured since.

However, Le Tissier still believes he can play a massive part for Hoddle in France oext summer, a feeling not harmed when Hoddle's assistant, John Gorthe door remains wide open, of the season."

adding: "Nobody is ruled in or out yet."

Le Tissier's Southampton team-mate Kevin Davies, whose late goal moved Saints through to the last 16, has no doubts. "He's unbelievable and the goal summed him up," the teenager said. "We found out on the coach that it was his 29th birthday and we all knew he'd do something special - he writes his own scripts!

If you've got a player with that much ability he should definitely be in the squad next summer. He's just a natural."

Le Tissier's smile showed how much the goal meant to him, even though his response to the suggestion that he cannot have scored many better was: "Yeah, I have!"

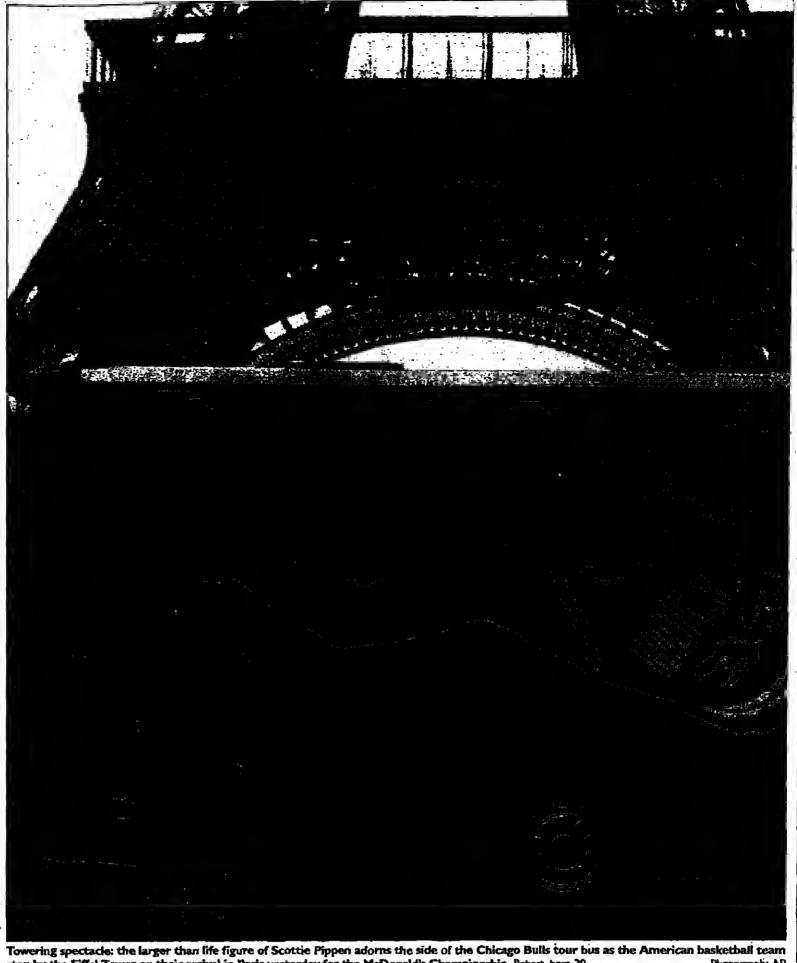
He added: "It was a good strike. Once I flicked it over the defender it fell so nicely I had a surge of confidence and as soon as I hit it I knew it was going in the back of the net.

Tve got some catching up on that front though as well, with the goals Steve McManaman and Dennis Bergkamp have been scoring. "What Bergkamp did 10 get 1-2-3 in goal of the month was some achievement and it will probahly never be matched again but it won't stop me trying."

But what Le Tissier oeeds above all now is an injury-free spell after his summer was disrupted by an elbow problem.

"I'm getting over the injury," he said. "All I want now is to get a decent run of games behind me to get myself 100 per ceot.

"It's still not there yet, and I'm getting little strains while I'm getting used to the pace of the game again. Hopefully, the major things are behind me and man, yesterday stressed that I can look forward to the rest



stop by the Eiffel Tower on their arrival in Paris yesterday for the McDonald's Championship. Report, page 30

League will not punish 'reserve' sides

The Football League has cho sen not to take any action against Manchester United and Arsenal for fielding under strength sides in Thesday Coca-Cola Cup ties.

After threatening both club with possible expulsion if the did not field their strongest pos sible line-ups, the League has backed down. "We appreciat that the senior chibs in the country operate a squad system and with that in mind we are able to enforce a degree of flex ibility and latitude," its press spokesman, Chris Hull, said.

The League is also renewing its efforts to reclaim a place for the Coca-Cola winners in next season's Uefa Cup.

Scotland have been invited to play the World Cup hosts, France, in a friendly at St Et enne, one of the venues for the finals, on 12 November.

Wolves have agreed a fee of about £800,000 with Crystal Palace for Dougie Freedman The 23-year-old striker will discuss personal terms at Mor lineux today.

Fulham are ready to pay A senal £700,000 for the mide fielder Ian Selley. Crews Alexandra's offer of a cinif record £750,000 for Dave Wall ton has been accepted by Shrewsbury, but the 24-year-old defender has so far failed to agree personal terms.

Bolton Wanderers are setting up an exchange deal to sell the midfielder Jamie Pollock to Aston Villa in exchange for the former Leicester forward, Julian Joachim. Bolton are likely to accept about £700,000 plus Joachim in exchange for Pollock.

Blackburn Rovers and Rangers have both made enquiries for Wimbledon's Scottish international goalkeeper, News Sullivan.

The Liverpool and Republic of Ireland defender Phil Babb has been ruled out of action for a month after suffering cracked ribs in training. ...

Manchester City have admitted unfairly sacking their former youth development officers, Colin Bell and Terry Farrell, in May, and will pay them both compensation. The club had been taken to an industrial tribunal, at which a settlement was negotiated.

Keller issues a warning to 'complacent' Leicester

The Leicester City goalkeeper, Kasey Keller, fears his side could face a relegation battle this season if they continue to rest on their laurels.

Martin O'Neill's side may be in an elevated position in the Premiership, hut a promising season is suddenly becoming more difficult by the day.

Any hopes of Uefa Cup giory, as the club tested the Eu-

. No3-131. Thursday 16 October

ACROSS

(6) Dash off second copy

10 Bird fellow cast in fancy

green porcelain (9,6) 11 Captures Knight

12 One drawing blind ---

13 Profane passage (6)

16 A fencing piece with

ly (6) 18 cinema's new chiller dis-

put on (6)

concealing manoeuvre

15 Strip, short strip, players 2

name inscribed oblique- 3

Dump's an empty place

ropean waters for the first time in 36 years, were quickly banished by Spain's Atletico Madrid and the brilliance of Brazil's Juninho.

Further misery soon followed with the first Premiership defeat of the season at Filbert Street coming at the hands of local rivals Derby via a double from the Italian Francesco Ba-

However, there were no Continental forces at work in last night's Coca-Cola Cup humiliation, just sheer typical English grit and determination from Alan Buckley's battling Grimsby - characteristics which carried Leicester 10 long

But the cup holders relin-

Score during play (10,5)

Spirit's showing in cho-

Guy reportedly on the

French river (6) Dread slip in high land

14 Lag, carrying article, one

risters (6)

figure (6)

overdue glory in April. quished their grip on the tropby they won with such pride

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

string of outstanding saves during that second period which saved Leicester from more embarrassment, said: "We are better than that - much better than that. But we need to get back to the Leicester that everybody knows, up the work-rate and try harder like we know we can. We have put ourselves in

Mariners.

sure we stay up."

ATHLETICS

and passion, as they were first rattled and then humbled by the Three goals in nine minutes

during the second half was Grimsby's just reward for their never-say-die attitude - a facet of Leicester's make-up which seems to have disappeared. Keller, who produced a

a good position so far, but there's a long way to go in the Premiership season just to en-

The United States interna-

tional added: "We have no right to be in this League and no right to be in fourth place. You have to fight for everything you get just like every other team does. We are about being for last night's disaster. a hard-working team, an hon-Meanwhile, the Grimsby est team that fights for one an-

other until the end of a game. Now it's time to get back to it." However, injuries are beginning to hamper Leicester's season as the captain. Steve Walsh, could be out for another month after cracking a rib. despite initial reports suggesting he had broken his arm.

Walsh, who only returned to the side last night after three weeks on the sidelines with a hamstring injury, will be joined in the treatment room by his fellow defender Julian Watts who suffered concussion and facial

Watts definitely misses this Saturday's game at Chelsea, and O'Neill is now in the middle of a crisis as he was also without five-first team regulars

defender Kevin Johling is hoping to land a new contract from the club as he has been on week-to-week terms since the start of the season. His first goal in Town colours for nearly three years could help him go a long way towards achieving his aim. He said: "I was in nosebleed territory when I scored."

The 28-year-old, who started his career with Leicester before moving to Blundell Park in 1987, added: "I don't score many but when I do they are important. But I'm just trying to earn myself a new contract and bopefully I can do that."

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21 I draw in fish? These

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24 Join society and get

more senior (6)

stack? (6)

outside (6)

юдпоту (8,7)

Fits rails (5)

side incorporating

DOWN

Dimly seeing soft mat

Dog has the patter,

without Bellman's phys-

ful (9)

hemmed in by little men 25 Like a building, on one

lines are certainly belp-

peared lively at first (5)

23 They never get tight (15) 9

Johnson and Bailey join queue of creditors petitors who are awaiting pay-After the news that ment for summer appearances. the British Athletics Bailey, the Canadian world Federation has gone into record holder and Olympic administration with champion at 100 metres, aphuge debts, it has peared twice in Britain, at Sheffield and Crystal Palace. His emerged that it is not management confirmed yesonly British athletes who terday that he has not yet been will feel the cost but

some of the biggest names in the sport. Mike Rowbottom surveys the mess.

same situation as British com-

like a dead-weight (9) 17 No hint of spark in dry The financial collapse of the BAF has left foreign athletes 18 Indolent, absorbing Sun-day Supplement? (6) such as Michael Johnson and Donovan Bailey out of pocket. it was revealed yesterday.

19 Viewers, in short, de-tecting orbit, satellite's A spokesperson for BAF, which announced on Tresday 20 Smart if dropped from Fits rails (5) group? (6)
Mild man, in speech, be- 22 Bluff with King, making that it had gone into administration with a deficit of trick (5) £500,000, confirmed that international athletes were in the

paid for the latter race, where he was supposed to receive around \$50,000 (£32,000).

"It is a matter of some concern, and we will be following it up with BAF," a spokesman said. Johnson's lacklustre performance in the 17 August meeting in London, where he finished fifth in the 200m and then pulled out of the relay, earned him widespread criticism. But the BAF promotions

officer, Ian Stewart, maintained afterwards that there would be no question of docking a fee thought to be around \$100,000. "A deal is a deal," Stewart

said at the time. But the matter has been taken out of his hands now and rests with the newly appointed interim managers. Diane Modahl, who is pur-

suing £500,000 worth of damages from BAF following her acquittal from doping charges, would have to take her place in the queue of creditors should she be successful. "My understanding is that

BAF have already spent half a million pounds on legal costs." Modahl's husband, Vicente said. "After the appeal we would have settled for a small amount and an apology. But BAF continued to take instruction from the International Amateur Athletic Federation to fight the case."

Meanwhile, Britain's bid for the 2003 World Championships is on hold, and the staging of the 1999 World Cross-Country Championships in Northern Ireland is also in doubt.

Self-serving attitudes,